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I. Organizational matters

1. The second regular session 2007 of the Executive Board of UNDP and UNFPA met from 10 to 14 September and on 5 October in New York. The Executive Board approved the agenda and work plan for its second regular session 2007 (DP/2007/L.3) and the report of the annual session 2007 (DP/2007/39).

2. The Executive Board agreed to the following schedule of sessions of the Executive Board in 2008:

First regular session 2008:	21 to 24 January 2008
Joint meeting of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP:	25 and 28 January 2008
Annual session 2008:	16 to 27 June 2008 (Geneva)
Second regular session 2008:	8 to 12 September 2008

3. Decisions adopted by the Executive Board at the annual session 2007 were included in document DP/2007/44 accessible at www.undp.org/execbrd.

Administrator's statement

4. In his address to the Executive Board, the Administrator reflected on recent challenges in the global economic environment. Citing the turmoil in financial markets as an example of the world's growing economic interdependence, often with severe and immediate impact on the most vulnerable states, he underscored the need for inclusive growth — a driving principle of the proposed UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011. He stressed the importance of a systematic analysis of resource deployment and of results-based management and interventions. In that context, he observed:

(a) *A marked increase in external and internal assessments of UNDP performance*, with more independent evaluations and stronger accountability and transparency controls contemplated in the strategic plan;

(b) *The establishment of concrete indicators* to measure UNDP contributions to development results, notably in the areas of United Nations coordination, management, South-South cooperation and other cross-cutting issues as a basis for assessing institutional performance;

(c) *Strengthened commitment to national ownership* of the development agenda, using a "market test" of demand for UNDP services to help measure its effectiveness; and

(d) *The UNDP policy* "that equality of rights for all is the indispensable foundation on which human development must be built".

5. He outlined the findings of a preliminary report of an external audit of past UNDP operations in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, adding that new allegations of funding diversion and whistleblower retaliation have prompted management to commission a complementary external review of issues beyond the mandate and terms of reference of the external auditors. He stressed the importance of due process in investigations, taking note of existing mechanisms such as the

Office of the Ombudsman and policies to protect whistleblowers and to guard against harassment and abuse of authority.

6. In anticipation of the high-level initiative on climate change of the Secretary-General, he noted the growing impact of climate change on human development. Among the elements of a scaled-up UNDP response to climate change, he highlighted the forthcoming Human Development Report and a number of partnerships with other United Nations bodies and with the private sector.

7. On the matter of United Nations coherence, he acknowledged the ongoing challenges in maintaining a delineation between the dual roles of UNDP as operational agency and manager of the resident coordinator system. He cited examples of harmonization and closer collaboration with United Nations colleagues, and noted that the strategic plan is anchored in the needs and demands of programme countries, guided by the parameters set out in the triennial comprehensive policy review (TCPR). Within those parameters, UNDP seeks to respond effectively to growing demand for greater effectiveness of the United Nations system, enhanced national ownership, greater country-level simplification and harmonization, and clearer delineation of functions.

8. Since the Administrator's statement was followed immediately by the Associate Administrator's introduction to the UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011, most comments by delegations were made subsequent to that presentation. However, the interventions, including those referred to in this paragraph, also related to the Administrator's statement. Delegations welcomed the Administrator's emphasis on growth and national ownership as well as the strengthened focus on transparency, performance assessment and managing for development results. They reaffirmed the critical role of UNDP in assisting countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and called on Member States to cooperate in allowing this important work to progress. While reserving more specific comments for the deliberation of the draft strategic plan, some delegations nonetheless observed that parts of the Administrator's statement seemed at odds with the core functions of UNDP and with the potential impact of the plan.

9. Some delegations expressed concern over the handling of allegations related to operations in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, contending that the approach contradicts the UNDP principles of transparency and of equal relations with all states.

10. In response, the Administrator reaffirmed management's commitment to transparency at all levels of UNDP, referring once more to the range of measures currently in place to that end.

UNDP segment

II. Financial, budgetary and administrative matters

11. The Associate Administrator presented the annual review of the financial situation, 2006 (DP/2007/41 and Add.1), information on United Nations technical cooperation expenditures, 2006 (DP 2007/42 and Add.1), and a preliminary draft of the biennial support budget in a results-based format.

12. Noting that the ratio between regular and other resources currently stands at 1:4, he reiterated the need to achieve a ratio of 1:3 by the end of the cycle, a target he felt attainable with support from Member States and commitment to predictable, timely funding. He noted a small (0.3 per cent) increase in technical cooperation expenditure. There was a major shift in the distribution of expenditure deriving from regular and extra-budgetary resources dedicated to technical cooperation. UNDP continues its overall upward trend in total programme delivery.

13. The Associate Administrator introduced the draft biennial support budget, which organizes proposed management results for 2008-2009 around 18 functions. He pointed out that, in contrast to previous input-based budgets, measuring management results at a functional level responds to the call for greater oversight and auditing functions.

14. The Executive Board adopted decision 2007/31 on the annual review of the financial situation, 2006 (UNDP) and the multi-year funding framework cumulative report on UNDP performance and results for 2004-2006. The Executive Board took note of the report on the information on United Nations system technical cooperation expenditures 2006.

III. UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011

15. The Associate Administrator presented the draft strategic plan, 2008-2011, noting that its improvements on the current multi-year funding framework are driven by country demand and comparative advantage. He spoke of the paradox of maintaining a corporate sense of purpose in a decentralized organization such as UNDP, while at the same time needing to tailor approaches and expectations to country-level contexts. The results frameworks of the strategic plan, he noted, aim to strike the necessary balance between flexibility and accountability.

16. He asserted that the four development focus areas — poverty reduction and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, democratic governance, crisis prevention and recovery, and environment and sustainable development — represent a natural evolution in the work of UNDP, with the overarching goal of developing country-level capacity to achieve the Goals.

17. Among the essential conditions for UNDP success, he underscored the following: a need to account for value created with taxpayers' money; a dynamic learning environment that captures and applies lessons; a world-standard ethical culture impermeable to fraud or corruption; strong investment in human resources; an emphasis on staff safety and security; and organization of UNDP and the wider United Nations system around the Millennium Development Goals.

18. In addition to highlighting prescriptions for strengthening accountability and results-based management, he stressed that the strategic plan is a living document that will benefit from a dynamic process of consultation and collaboration.

19. Delegations commended the efforts of UNDP to make the strategic plan responsive to the needs and concerns of Member States. Acknowledging the unprecedented number of informal consultations on the strategic plan, they expressed appreciation for the ongoing commitment to refining the draft. Many noted with approval the stronger orientation toward measurable results and the cross-cutting integration of gender equality and women's empowerment, as well as

the emphasis on national ownership, South-South cooperation, capacity development and a demand-driven approach. Many urged a move forward to implementation.

20. At the same time, delegations expressed contrasting assessments of the potential impact of certain elements of the proposed strategic plan. Some felt that certain proposals tended to impose conditionalities, undermine national sovereignty and cause UNDP to deviate from its core development mandate, as well as pre-empt the outcome of General Assembly negotiations and the TCPR. Others expressed regret at a perceived dilution of the human rights-based approach and called for greater precision in delineating United Nations coordination functions, underscoring the importance of a clear division between these and the operations of UNDP itself. Several delegations asked for further elaboration on the concept of a UNDP accountability framework. Although many delegations welcomed the emphasis on South-South cooperation as central to capacity development, some felt the draft strategic plan presented it as a modality rather than as a driving principle.

21. After exhaustive consultations on this agenda item, the President convened an extraordinary sixth day of deliberations, at which he presented a draft decision on the UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011.

22. In remarks on behalf of the Administrator, who was attending to previously scheduled commitments abroad, the Associate Administrator stated that a rather big challenge during the session had been towards reaching an agreement on the UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011. He thanked Board Members for the tremendous efforts they had made to achieve a consensus on the plan. He acknowledged that not all delegations were fully pleased with every part of the decision, adding that UNDP needed to recognize this and be sensitive to the full range of issues and concerns expressed. He assured the Board that UNDP would follow fully the provisions and guidance contained in their decision, and that all the amendments and adjustments integral to the decision would be fully reflected in the operationalization of the strategic plan. He underscored the commitment of UNDP to ensuring that all guidance provided to country offices would reflect the full provisions of the decision. Finally, he committed to issuing an updated version of the strategic plan, reflecting all the provisions of the decision, prior to the first regular session of the Executive Board in January 2008.

23. Delegations were pleased to have arrived at a consensus on the decision and praised the consultative process. They pledged to cooperate in ongoing efforts to improve the plan. Some took the floor to underscore the crucial role of UNDP in promoting United Nations norms, standards, principles and ideals as prescribed by its mandate. Many stressed the importance of national ownership and respect for sovereignty in development interventions at country level.

24. Some delegations, however, reiterated their contention that a human rights-based approach is not within the UNDP mandate, nor does UNDP have normative, operational or monitoring competence in the area of human rights. Some urged UNDP to base its work on internationally agreed concepts and approaches consistent with the outcomes of United Nations summits and conferences. They reaffirmed the view that development funding should be neutral, grounded in multilateralism and free of conditionalities, reflecting the universal, voluntary and grant nature of United Nations development activities as guided by national priorities. In the spirit of constructive dialogue, some delegations encouraged UNDP to remain sensitive to

divergent viewpoints and cultural differences in ongoing discussions of and improvements to the strategic plan.

25. The Executive Board adopted decision 2007/32 on the UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011. Full transcripts of statements delivered upon adoption of the decision are contained in document DP/2008/1/Add.1.

IV. Programming arrangements

26. The Associate Administrator presented proposals on programming arrangements, which included: a systematic adjustment of country classification thresholds at the start of each programming cycle to ensure that they remain constant over time; standardizing the target for resource assignment from the core (TRAC) to a 50:50 share between TRAC-1 and TRAC-2, with regional flexibility of up to 10 per cent above regional pro rata shares of total TRAC-1, and without country limitation on TRAC-2 resource assignments; increasing the annual programming base from $450 million to $700 million; and adjusting specific fixed lines of the programme financial framework. He also proposed measures intended to strengthen the partnership between UNDP and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) in areas of decentralization, local governance and microfinance.

27. Delegations were pleased with the move toward results-based budgeting captured in the document, but called for clearer linkages between allocations and development outcomes according to the priorities set forth in the draft strategic plan. Some commended the strengthened partnership with UNCDF, noting that the increasing demand for its services warranted predictable programme financing support. Others encouraged UNDP to adopt a gradual approach to classification adjustments, to minimize any adverse impact on ongoing programmes as well as to maintain funding thresholds within TRAC that would sustain a minimum presence in middle-income countries.

28. Delegations also welcomed the introduction of a fixed line for gender mainstreaming, hailing its potential for closer monitoring of gender-related spending over time.

29. The Associate Administrator emphasized in response that allocations and cost classifications would proceed according to country programme demand and remain subject to review, with necessary adjustments after the new biennium. He took note of the comment regarding minimum funding thresholds in middle-income countries.

30. The Executive Board adopted decision 2007/33 on proposals for programming arrangements for 2008-2011.

V. United Nations Development Fund for Women

31. The Executive Director, United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), presented the UNIFEM strategic plan, 2008-2011. Asserting the centrality of women's empowerment to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, she noted that the plan aims to deepen support through catalytic programming with a guiding framework of national ownership, South-South

cooperation and supporting country capacity to implement global conventions on women's empowerment.

32. Building on the previous multi-year funding framework, the new strategy features specific yet interlinked outcomes adapted to local contexts. She described the development and management results frameworks, underscoring the responsibilities of UNIFEM to provide demand-driven policy advice and programming, strong coordination on gender equality throughout the United Nations reform process, accountability, risk management and oversight, and effective, efficient administrative, human and financial capacity and systems. She called for an increase in core contributions to enhance predictability and effective planning.

33. Some 34 delegations took the floor to pay tribute to the Executive Director's 12-year tenure at UNIFEM on the occasion of her final appearance before the Executive Board in that capacity, many praising the role and impact of UNIFEM in their own development initiatives. They underscored the crucial role of UNIFEM in the drive to achieve "one United Nations", in coordinating gender-based interventions across the United Nations system and in global achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. In this regard, they noted that mainstreaming gender equality is the collective responsibility of all Member States and of the United Nations system as a whole. One delegation urged UNIFEM to scale up efforts to promote participation of men in women's empowerment initiatives.

34. Several delegations observed that while the draft strategic plan moves definitively toward sharper, more ambitious catalytic programming, gaps remain in its monitoring, evaluation and accountability mechanisms. Delegations perceived a "crisis of implementation" and encouraged better harvesting of data and lessons learned to more seamlessly transform ideas into strategic action.

35. Reiterating the need for predictable funding, many delegations applauded the growing support for gender-related development activities, one delegation officially committing to increased support to UNIFEM. Some delegations, noting stagnation in UNIFEM core funding, asked how programming would be affected in the event of a shortfall in the projected core funding increase. One called attention to the challenge of service delivery in middle-income countries, where funding allocations might fail to adequately assess needs on the ground. Delegations called on Member States beyond the traditional largest donors to consolidate support.

36. Senior UNIFEM managers responded by detailing the ongoing efforts to harmonize operations with other United Nations organizations and to improve accountability, monitoring and evaluation. They assured members of their continued creativity in capturing lessons learned and in bolstering capacity at country level to scale up replication of good practices.

VI. UNDP country programmes and related matters

37. The Associate Administrator presented 22 draft country programmes for consideration by the Executive Board, from:

Africa region: Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Liberia, Madagascar, Rwanda and Togo.

Asia and the Pacific region: Fiji, Nepal and Samoa.

Arab States region: Kuwait and Somalia.

Latin America and the Caribbean region: Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico and Nicaragua.

38. In accordance with Executive Board decision 2001/11 and 2006/36, the Executive Board approved the following country programme extensions on a no-objection basis: Bahrain, Bhutan, Bolivia, Cuba, Djibouti, Guinea-Bissau, India, Jordan, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and United Arab Emirates.

39. Among the votes of confidence and appreciation expressed by delegations for the draft regional programmes, several praised the consultative process which produced them. Many went on to draw attention to the particular resource mobilization challenges faced by middle-income countries. Others questioned whether UNDP was best placed to support economic development initiatives and urged UNDP to play to its strengths, such as advocacy and capacity development. Delegations urged UNDP to improve its effectiveness in partnering with local institutions and initiatives. One delegation recommended that UNDP strengthen interventions and coordination at local, district and village levels, and to ensure participation of marginalized and vulnerable groups in the development process.

40. The Assistant Administrator and Director, Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, presented a note by the Administrator on assistance to Myanmar. Summarizing the findings of a recent assessment of the Human Development Initiative in Myanmar, he illustrated, through examples of concrete results, how the initiative had met its mandate, and offered grounds for a three-year extension.

41. Delegations expressed support for the extension, some urging UNDP to redouble its efforts to ensure that its resources were appropriately targeted and applied according to the mandate of the initiative.

42. The Executive Board adopted decision 2007/36 on assistance to Myanmar.

VII. United Nations Office for Project Services

43. The Executive Director, United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), reported on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for 2004-2005.

44. Delegations expressed appreciation for the improvements in transparency and efficiency at UNOPS. One delegation called on UNOPS to address remaining gaps in internal risk control, maintenance of reserve and internal accounts.

45. Turning to the proposed transfer of direct procurement services for common-user items from the UNDP/Inter-Agency Procurement Services Office (IAPSO) to UNOPS, delegates welcomed the proposal in the light of the associated strengthening of UNOPS as a central procurement resource, among other procurement resources, to the United Nations system.

46. The Executive Board adopted decision 2007/37 on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, 2004-2005, and decision 2007/38 on the proposed partial merger of certain functions of IAPSO with UNOPS.

VIII. United Nations Capital Development Fund

47. The Executive Director, United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), presented a proposal on programme and funding arrangements for the Fund. He detailed progress in partnering with UNDP to integrate strategic planning and results frameworks through the UNDP strategic plan, establish programmes and mobilize resources jointly at country level, integrate reporting and evaluation policies, and rationalize management and operations. He called for more frequent consultations with donor Member States and with UNDP to increase core resources and stabilize the financial foundation of UNCDF.

48. Delegations praised efforts to harmonize with UNDP, and heralded the singular focus on least developed countries. Several delegations queried which alternatives UNCDF would adopt should it fail to meet its funding goal of $25 million dollars: whether it would reduce the number of countries supported or the amount allocated to each country. In this regard, many called upon UNCDF to rule out the former option, some encouraging UNCDF to extend its services, albeit gradually, to all least developed countries. Some urged UNCDF to present the more detailed progress report on integration efforts with UNDP that had been planned for the current session. Many echoed the call for increased funding from UNDP, as well as for a more diversified base of donors and other funding sources. One delegation cautioned that UNCDF should refrain from becoming engaged with financial sector reform at the country level to an extent that would exceed its mandate.

49. In response, the Executive Director assured delegates that programming and funding arrangements with UNDP remain a top priority for UNCDF. He identified funding stability as the major challenge, and expressed appreciation for the widespread encouragement for UNDP to take the lead in increasing support. He stressed that UNCDF would seek to avoid reducing the number of countries assisted, a position reiterated by other senior fund managers. The Executive Director reminded delegates that creating enabling environments for microcredit through inclusive financial sector policies is one of the UNCDF practice areas. He closed by announcing his imminent departure from the UNCDF for personal reasons, which prompted tributes from the President and the Associate Administrator.

50. The Executive Board adopted decision 2007/34 on predictable programme financing for UNCDF.

UNFPA segment

IX. Statement by the Executive Director and financial, budgetary and administrative matters

51. The UNFPA segment opened with the statement of the Executive Director (available at http://www.unfpa.org/exbrd). The Executive Director stated that in a changing world, UNFPA was committed to change to better serve people in their quest for peace, security, human rights, and development. She underscored that nationally owned and led development was a fundamental guiding principle for UNFPA and the Fund's goal was to be a stronger field-focused organization that delivered stronger results in support of national development. She noted that the UNFPA strategic plan, 2008-2011, was designed to trigger local results. She

underscored that the organizational structure emphasized strengthening country offices to improve programme delivery. She noted the Fund's commitment to co-location and regional alignment with other United Nations organizations. She stated that UNFPA was strengthening its oversight capacity and training all staff on accountability, including risk management and fraud prevention. She informed the Executive Board about the Fund's accountability framework and noted that a draft oversight policy was being prepared.

52. She gave an overview of the Fund's financial situation and thanked the top 10 donors to UNFPA: Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, the United Kingdom, Denmark, Japan, Finland, Germany, Spain and Canada. She thanked the 43 countries that had increased their contributions in 2007. She deeply appreciated that support from the Executive Board members and the United Nations membership at large had enabled UNFPA to become stronger and more stable financially.

53. The Executive Director highlighted the recently launched initiatives that UNFPA was proud to participate in: the International Health Partnership of Prime Minister Gordon Brown of the United Kingdom and Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg of Norway; the Norwegian-led Deliver Now for Women and Children initiative; the Canadian initiative to save a million lives; and the UNICEF and UNFPA initiative to reduce female genital mutilation. She noted that poor sexual and reproductive health was the leading killer of young women in developing countries and constituted a large share of the global burden of poor health and disease. Greater progress in saving women's lives depended in part on greater resources and towards that end UNFPA was creating a thematic trust fund to improve maternal health. She encouraged Member Sates to contribute to the fund and emphasized that *No woman should die giving life*.

54. The Executive Director stated that UNFPA would continue to focus on HIV prevention among women and young people, and on condom programming. A comprehensive package of sexual and reproductive health services and supplies underpinned achieving universal access to reproductive health, HIV prevention and attaining the health Millennium Development Goals. She underscored that advancing women's empowerment and gender equality was central to development, human rights, peace and security. She noted the important work under way to carry forward the TCPR. She stated that the quest for coherence provided unprecedented opportunities to integrate the goals of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) into national plans and United Nations support to countries.

55. Delegations applauded the Executive Director's inspiring statement and expressed strong support for the mandate and work of UNFPA. They commended UNFPA and its staff for the commitment to advancing the ICPD agenda. They underscored that achieving the ICPD goals was essential for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. They appreciated the extensive, transparent and inclusive consultative process that UNFPA had engaged in with Member States in developing the strategic plan, 2008-2011, and the organizational structure. Several delegations underscored the importance of the Fund's work in the area of sexual and reproductive health and rights, including HIV-prevention, especially among young people, and the eradication of gender-based violence. The strong inclusion of HIV/AIDS in the plan was considered extremely important, as well as the focus on combating female genital mutilation/cutting. They appreciated the priority given to

the human rights-based approach in the strategic plan and noted that it was important for UNFPA to build capacity at all levels to implement this. Delegations supported the organizational structure and its emphasis on strengthening country offices and country-level support. Two delegations regretted the change of location of one of the regional offices.

56. The Fund's commitment to implementing the TCPR was commended. Referring to the Delivering as One pilots, one delegation asked about the costs. One delegation asked for information on the High-Level Committee on Management (HLCM). Several delegations expressed appreciation for UNFPA support and stated that they valued the Fund's work in their countries. A number of them indicated their interest in enhancing their partnership with UNFPA in such areas as reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, and youth. Some delegations expressed concern that progress on Millennium Development Goal 5, on improving maternal health, was lagging behind. One delegation noted that in addressing maternal health, there should be an emphasis on maternal mortality. Delegations noted the importance they attached to the Fund's work in humanitarian crises and mentioned that they would have liked additional information in the strategic plan on the cluster approach and the Fund's contribution to the ongoing humanitarian reform. Some delegations asked for further details about the Fund's partnership with other United Nations organizations, including in the area of gender.

57. Delegations were pleased to note the robust financial health of UNFPA reported in the Annual Financial Review, 2006. The delegation of Denmark announced that it would consider increasing its contribution to UNFPA by 50 million DKK upon the endorsement of the strategic plan. Several delegations commended UNFPA attention to accountability issues and expressed support for the Fund's plans to ensure robust audit, oversight and accountability arrangements. One delegation stated that the accountability systems should not be established at the expense of the independence and credibility of United Nations internal systems and the sovereignty of Member States.

58. The Executive Director thanked the delegations for their support and comments. She thanked the European Commission for the increased contribution and also thanked Denmark for announcing a likely increase in its contribution. She appreciated the recognition by Executive Board members of the importance of the culturally sensitive approach, particularly in the community-level context. She emphasized that addressing maternal mortality was very high on the UNFPA agenda and the campaign to eradicate obstetric fistula was a part of that. She underscored the need to achieve the target of universal access to reproductive health by 2015. Regarding censuses, she noted that UNFPA was involved in several and was the lead agency for the censuses in Afghanistan, Iraq and the Sudan.

59. Concerning the issue of co-location, she noted that an important factor was that UNFPA bought services from UNDP and in the feasibility study it had been indicated that Almaty would be a subregional hub for UNDP and UNICEF. She assured the Board that no new bureaucratic layer would be created under the new organizational structure. Regarding the HLCM, she elaborated on the committees pertaining to human resource initiatives; financial management; and information and communication technology and knowledge sharing. Concerning the Delivering as One costs, she noted that the processes were very labour-intensive and required a heavy investment in terms of time and personnel.

60. She elaborated on the division of labour being worked out amongst the agencies regarding gender and stated that additionally, where UNIFEM was not present, UNFPA took on gender issues beyond reproductive health. She noted that UNFPA chaired the Inter-Agency Standing Committee task force on gender-based violence. Within specific global clusters UNFPA had coordination responsibility for the reproductive health sub-cluster within the Health cluster; for the sexual and gender-based violence sub-cluster under the Protection cluster; and for gender within the Early Recovery cluster. UNFPA had also been asked to take on coordination for improving age- and sex-disaggregated data collection and analysis for the cluster system as a whole. Regarding partnerships, she noted that the Fund's main collaborators included WHO, UNDP, UNICEF and UNIFEM.

61. The Director, Division for Management Services, in responding to a query noted that the 8 per cent growth in the biennial support costs as reflected in financial data over the past ten-year period was attributable to inflation, mandatory costs, security costs and local costs that were dollar-based and were impacted by currency movements. He stated that UNFPA was a small organization and had various fixed costs. Regarding the operational reserve, he clarified that UNFPA was neither freezing the operational reserve nor drawing down from it. Instead, UNFPA was proposing withholding $11 million, which was the equivalent of 20 per cent growth in expected annual regular income for 2007 and 2008, to utilize those funds for the one-time cost of the organizational structure during the next biennium, 2008-2009: this should be regarded as an investment in the organization.

62. The Executive Board took note of the UNFPA annual financial review, 2006 (DP/FPA/2007/15).

X. UNFPA strategic plan and related matters

63. The Executive Director introduced the UNFPA strategic plan, 2008-2011: Accelerating progress and national ownership of the ICPD Programme of Action (DP/FPA/2007/17), as well as the other documents to be considered under the agenda item, namely: the global and regional programme (DP/FPA/2007/19); the UNFPA accountability framework (DP/FPA/2007/20); the review of the organizational structure (DP/FPA/2007/16 and corrigendum (DP/FPA/2007/16/Corr.1); and the review of the system for the allocation of UNFPA resources to country programmes (DP/FPA/2007/18).

64. Delegations appreciated the transparent and collaborative process followed in developing the strategic plan, 2008-2011. They recognized that the plan responded to the changing aid environment. Noting that the plan was concrete and well structured, they welcomed the three focus areas: population and development, reproductive health and rights and gender equality. They also welcomed the strategic plan's focus on national ownership, national leadership, capacity development, and South-South cooperation. Delegations underscored the positive difference that the work of UNFPA generated in the lives of women and youth. They recommended further refinement of baselines and indicators and emphasized robust monitoring of results. Some delegations hoped to see indicators to monitor reproductive health commodity security (RHCS) included in the results-based framework. Some delegations welcomed the emphasis on addressing the complications of unsafe abortion. One delegation sought clarification regarding

unsafe abortion. Delegations expressed concern that progress on Millennium Development Goal 5 on improving maternal health was lagging behind.

65. Delegations welcomed the Fund's culturally sensitive approach to programming and hoped that implementation of the strategic plan would be guided by it. It was noted that such cultural and local sensitivity was necessary to adequately measure and evaluate programme results. Delegations welcomed UNFPA support for the 2010 round of censuses and noted the importance of strengthening data collection and use, including data disaggregated by sex and age. Delegations expressed support for scenario 3 of the organizational structure and emphasized that the changes should improve efficiency and performance at country and regional levels. They requested a timetable with benchmarks for the roll out. The importance of accountability and transparency was emphasized.

66. The Executive Director thanked the delegations for their constructive comments and support. Regarding the regionalization implementation, she assured he Executive Board that it would be a fair, open and phased process and noted that UNFPA had developed a human resources plan that included job matching and a job fair. She added that UNFPA would report back to the Board on progress. Regarding the query on abortion, she stated that UNFPA abided by paragraph 8.25 in the ICPD Programme of Action. She saluted the new Director-General of WHO and stated that WHO was an excellent partner with whom UNFPA collaborated on issues of common interest.

67. The Deputy Executive Director (Programme) elaborated on UNFPA collaboration with UNAIDS. She noted that as an active co-sponsor of UNAIDS, UNFPA had a lead role in the following: comprehensive condom programming, vulnerable young people, and HIV and sex work. She assured delegations that to promote RHCS UNFPA was working with several partners, including national champions and NGOs.

68. The Chief, Strategic Planning Office, noted that UNFPA had developed a model for risk management and training was being provided to country offices. He stated that baselines for the strategic plan indicators would be established based on information obtained by the end of 2007 from the country office annual reports. Regarding reporting, he drew attention to annex 2 of the accountability framework document (DP/FPA/2007/20) and noted that comprehensive reports on the strategic plan implementation would be submitted in 2009 and 2011. Progress on implementation would also be provided in 2008 and 2010 through the Executive Director's annual reports. He emphasized that strengthening and harmonizing reporting to the Executive Board was very important. He noted that the strategic plan document included information on UNFPA partnerships at global, regional and country levels.

69. The Executive Board adopted the following decisions: 2007/40: UNFPA strategic plan, 2008-2011; 2007/41: UNFPA global and regional programme, 2008-2011; 2007/42: Review of the system for the allocation of UNFPA resources to country programmes; and 2007/43: Review of the organizational structure of UNFPA and the operational reserve.

70. Following the adoption of the decisions, the delegations of the United States of America and the Russian Federation provided explanations of position and requested that their statements be included in the record of the meeting (the

statements are contained in annex 2). The delegations of Sweden and Belarus also made statements.

XI. Country programmes and related matters

71. The UNFPA Deputy Executive Director (Programme) provided a broad overview of the draft country programmes under consideration by the Executive Board. A short film was shown illustrating UNFPA work in developing countries to support reproductive health commodity security.

72. The Directors of the Africa Division, Asia and the Pacific Division, the Latin America and the Caribbean Division and the Deputy Director of the Division for Arab States, Europe and Central Asia introduced the specific draft country programme documents from their regions.

73. In accordance with decision 2006/36, the Executive Board approved the following 15 country programmes, on a no-objection basis, without presentation or discussion: Cameroon, Comoros, Guinea Bissau, Malawi, Mali, Sierra Leone, Djibouti, Jordan, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Bolivia and Cuba. These documents had been reviewed and discussed earlier at the Annual session in June 2007.

74. The Executive Board also reviewed and discussed the following 14 draft country programme documents for: Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Rwanda, Togo, Somalia, Nepal, Pacific Island countries, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico and Nicaragua; and the country programme extension for Venezuela.

75. During the discussion, numerous delegations emphasized that UNFPA was an important development partner. They underscored that a fruitful consultative process involving Government, UNFPA, civil society and other stakeholders had been followed in preparing the draft country programme documents. They appreciated that the draft country programmes were in line with the UNDAF, national plans and priorities, and national poverty reduction strategies. They commended UNFPA efforts focusing on reproductive health care, including HIV/AIDS; addressing maternal and infant mortality and gender-based violence; and emergency preparedness. They noted that strengthened coordination amongst agencies would help avoid duplication. Some delegations stated that the ultimate goal should be one consolidated country programme.

76. Specific comments made on the draft country programmes were noted by UNFPA and, in accordance with decision 2006/36, will be conveyed to the respective countries to take into account in finalizing the country programme documents. The UNFPA Directors responded to queries from delegations and observed that in the interest of time additional information would be provided bilaterally to the concerned delegations. It was noted that due to the current procedures of the Executive Boards of the different agencies it was not possible to submit one consolidated country programme.

77. The Executive Board took note of the following 14 draft country programme documents and the comments made thereon: Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Rwanda, Togo, Somalia, Nepal,

Pacific Island countries, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico and Nicaragua. The Board also took note of the country programme extension for Venezuela.

Joint UNDP/UNFPA segment

XII. Internal audit and oversight

78. The Associate Administrator, UNDP, and the Director, Division for Oversight Services (DOS), UNFPA, presented their respective oral reports (in response to decision 2007/29) on progress made in developing the components and principles of the oversight policy prior to its submission to the Executive Board in January 2008.

79. Delegates commended UNDP and UNFPA efforts and looked forward to further elaboration of their respective policies. They underscored the importance of accountability and transparency. They emphasized that all partners were accountable for delivering on the promises of the Millennium Development Goals. In noting that accountability should include a focus on the monitoring of performance and results, they stressed that accountability frameworks must be robust enough to respond to needs even in the most challenging parts of the world. Noting the importance of UNDP and UNFPA oversight services in providing assurance to the Executive Board, delegates underscored that donors sought assurance that their funding would reach the planned objectives. They reaffirmed the political neutrality and impartiality of UNDP and UNFPA and noted that a diversity of views should be preserved. Regarding financial disclosures by staff, one delegation asked to whom the information was disclosed and how the system worked.

80. The Associate Administrator, UNDP, acknowledged the importance of regarding oversight as but one dimension of broader accountability efforts. He suggested informal consultations over the coming months to shape the role of the proposed audit advisory committee.

81. The Director, DOS, UNFPA, thanked the delegations for their support and encouragement. Regarding the financial disclosures by staff, he clarified that all UNFPA staff holding the rank of D-1 and above, plus all UNFPA Representatives and all procurement staff were required to make financial disclosures. The disclosures were made online and the custodian of the information was the UNFPA Deputy Executive Director (External Relations, United Nations Affairs and Management).

XIII. Follow-up to the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS Programme Coordinating Board meeting

82. The Deputy Executive Director (Programme), UNFPA, and the Assistant Administrator and Director, Bureau for Development Policy, UNDP, made a joint presentation on UNDP and UNFPA implementation of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) recommendations.

83. Delegations appreciated the joint presentation and were pleased with the results of the review of progress in implementing the Global Task Team (GTT) recommendations. They encouraged further efforts to optimize joint programming

and were interested in institutional incentives to encourage joint work at country level. They noted that UNAIDS could serve as a model to others in delivery. They stressed the importance of the division of labour as agreed among the UNAIDS cosponsors and emphasized the need to avoid duplication. Delegations underscored that the linkages between sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender equality and HIV/AIDS were critical for preventing the spread of the pandemic. They encouraged UNDP and UNFPA to invest in prevention activities addressing boys and girls, as well as the prevention of mother-to-child transmission. They hoped that the organizations would act upon the UNAIDS gender guidelines, once finalized, and work to ensure gender equality and equity in national HIV responses.

84. Delegations urged renewed focus on vulnerable and marginalized groups and on addressing the stigma and discrimination surrounding AIDS. They encouraged further efforts to strengthen analysis of the impact of HIV/AIDS on poverty and vulnerability to inform the development of national planning frameworks and poverty reduction strategies. They stressed the need to ensure that targets for different initiatives such as those of the United Nations, the Global Fund and bilaterally supported programmes were harmonized with country targets for universal access. They encouraged the agencies, funds and programmes to use the UNAIDS unified budget and work plan as the accountability tool for all HIV/AIDS activities.

85. The Deputy Executive Director, UNFPA, thanked the delegations for their constructive comments and assured the Executive Board that UNFPA was committed to implementing the GTT recommendations and was undertaking close follow-up. She noted that the follow-up action plan would be reviewed next week in Geneva at the UNAIDS meeting of global coordinators representing all UNAIDS cosponsors and adjustments would be made as needed. Referring to the ongoing discussions on the division of labour among UNAIDS cosponsors, she observed that the division of labour would respond to the respective country situation and factors such as country presence and capacities of each cosponsor on the ground. Noting that the nearly 100 HIV/AIDS experts recruited by UNFPA to provide support in country offices were having a very positive impact, she provided an illustrative example of the joint programme in Kenya, as well as examples from Thailand and Indonesia. She stated that UNFPA would provide additional examples at future Executive Board sessions. She underscored that linkages between HIV/AIDS and reproductive health programming were increasingly evident.

86. The Assistant Administrator and Director, Bureau for Development Policy, UNDP, confirmed that HIV/AIDS-related interventions are not a sector unto themselves, but are mainstreamed to cut broadly across all practices. He acknowledged the ongoing challenges posed by stigma and discrimination surrounding AIDS.

87. The Executive Board took note of the joint Report on the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (DP/2007/50-DP/FPA/2007/22).

XIV. Field visits

88. The team leader of the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board field visit to Mexico (29 April to 5 May 2007) introduced the report of the field visit (DP/2007/CRP.3-DP/FPA/2007/CRP.2). He thanked the Government of Mexico and the staff of UNDP and UNFPA for a very educational and enjoyable field visit. He highlighted the recommendations contained in the report and noted that Mexico provided a useful paradigm for United Nations engagement with middle-income countries. The delegation of Mexico expressed its Government's appreciation for the Executive Board's field visit and emphasized that UNDP and UNFPA had an important role to play in Mexico and other middle income countries. The delegation underscored that Mexico attached great importance to South-South cooperation.

89. The Executive Board took note of the report of the field visit to Mexico.

XV. Other matters

90. Presenting a proposed amendment to the instrument for the establishment of the restructured Global Environment Facility (GEF), a senior manager of the GEF declared that the amendment would be effective upon adoption by the implementing agency.

91. The Executive Board adopted decision 2007/39 on the amendment to the instrument for the establishment for a restructured GEF.

92. The Executive Board agreed to a new procedure whereby the Director of the Evaluation Office would be appointed in consultation with the Executive Board, and agreed to suggest reappointing the current Director for a second four-year term.

Informal meetings

93. UNDP held informal consultations on the preliminary drafts of the UNDP and UNIFEM biennial support budgets.

94. UNFPA held an informal consultation on the preliminary draft of the UNFPA biennial support budget.

Annex 1

Item 9: UNFPA strategic plan and related matters

U.S. Explanation of Position

Mr. Chairman, my delegation would like to express our gratitude to our colleagues on the Executive Board for their hard work during the course of this week, and would like to offer the following Explanation of Position on the decisions on Items 9 (a) and (b) before us.

The International Conference on Population and Development Program of Action expresses important political goals that the United States endorses. We accept the goals and objectives of the ICPD Program of Action and its Key Actions for further implementation based on the understanding that, while these documents constitute an important policy framework, they do not create international rights or legally binding obligations on states under international law.

Our reaffirmation of the goals and objectives of these documents does not constitute a change in the position of the United States with respect to treaties we have not ratified.

The United States further understands that references to reproductive health and all associated terms do not create any new international human rights and cannot be interpreted to constitute support, endorsement, or promotion of abortion.

It is our understanding that nothing in the Strategic Plan or in the Global and Regional Programme authorizes UNFPA to engage in advocacy relating to abortion legalization; such advocacy would be inappropriate for a UN agency which states that it is neutral on the issue. Additionally, regarding references to "unsafe abortion" in these and other UNFPA documents, it is our understanding that UNFPA follows the ICPD guidelines, which define "unsafe abortion" as a procedure for terminating an unwanted pregnancy either by persons lacking the necessary skills or in an environment lacking the minimal medical standards, or both.

We request that this Explanation of Position be included for the record in the report of this meeting.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Russian Federation Explanation of Position

Mr. Chairman,

Russia has consistently supported the strengthening of country and regional components of the work of UNFPA.

It is our understanding that the decision "Review of the organizational structure of the UNFPA" adopted at the session under agenda item 9 will enable the process of regionalization in all the regions, including the establishment of a subregional office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

At the same time, we believe that gradual implementation of the Fund's structural reorganization will allow for the reconsideration of the proposal regarding

the location of the regional bureau for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, which should later result in a decision that meets the interests of the programme countries of the region.

We believe that the decision on the location of the regional bureau should be based on current realities and should, first of all, contribute to the improvement of the UNFPA effectiveness in the region. Taking into account the objective of co-location, the process is likely to require the involvement of other operational agencies, first of all, UNDP and UNICEF.

Mr. Chairman,

We expect extensive and timely consultations with interested delegations on the issue.

We kindly request our statement to be included in the official records of the session.

Annex 2

Statements made by delegations on the adoption of decision 2007/32 during the resumed second regular session, 5 October 2007

1. Pakistan, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China

Mr. President, Mr. Associate Administrator, Distinguished Delegates, I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China after the adoption of decision on the UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011. The Group of 77 and China would like to thank the President for his remarkable leadership and perseverance through a difficult process. I would also like to thank the Administrator for his commitment and dedication as conveyed by the Associate Administrator today. We wish to thank the distinguished facilitators, Mr. Tesfa Seyoum of Eritrea and Ms. Tarja Fernandez of Finland, for the manner in which they coordinated the negotiations of one of the most difficult draft decisions. We also wish to thank our partners for the constructive spirit that prevailed throughout the negotiations. We trust that the Board will be able to apply the same constructive approach to the future steps related to continual improvement of the strategic plan.

Mr. President, we have joined consensus on an important decision of the UNDP strategic plan with hope that the plan will be continually improved in the light of the provisions of this decision. We welcome the Administrator's commitment to issue an updated version of the strategic plan at the first regular session of the Executive Board in January 2008. We believe that this decision will be an integral part of the strategic plan, 2008-2011 and provide guidelines.

While reaffirming the importance of the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review, the G-77 and China appreciates the agreement about the need to improve the strategic plan in the light of the General Assembly resolution on the TCPR, particularly in the chapters on coordination, democratic governance, capacity development, and crisis prevention and recovery. We believe that TCPR precedes the UNDP strategic plan, and thus the implementation of the strategic plan should be based on the understanding and agreement reached in the TCPR. On the same line, we stress that UNDP should base its work on the concepts and approaches which are intergovernmentally agreed and consistent with the outcomes of United Nations conferences and summits.

With the adoption of this decision, we wish to stress and expect that the UNDP will fully respect the United Nations Charter principles of national sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity of the States. We reiterate that the strength of the United Nations operational system lies in its legitimacy, at the country level, as a neutral, objective and trusted partner for both recipient countries and donor countries.

The G-77 and China fully appreciates the importance of promotion of human rights, particularly the right to development for achieving sustained economic growth and sustainable development, in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions. However, while stressing the need for UNDP to strictly adhere to its mandate, we reaffirm that UNDP has neither any normative, operational or

monitoring role, nor any competence with regard to human rights. We would like to register our views that UNDP leadership should be impartial in discharging its mandate by carefully avoiding any politically charged influence.

We reiterate that UNDP should focus on supporting national priorities rather than trying to set or establish them. We would assess the effectiveness of UNDP through its contribution in assisting programme countries in the achievement of their national development plans and strategies.

Mr. President, we want to reaffirm that funding for development activities should not be tied to any conditionalities, or earmarked for certain focus areas only. Instead, it should be allocated according to the respective national priorities and plans of programme countries.

We call for practical adherence to the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system which are, inter alia, their universal, voluntary and grant nature, their neutrality and their multilateralism, as well as their ability to respond to the development needs of recipient countries in a flexible manner, and that the operational activities are carried out for the benefit of recipient countries, at the request of those countries and in accordance with their own policies and priorities for development. We reiterate that the overarching principle of United Nations operational activities is national ownership and leadership of the process, its products and results by the programme countries.

Mr. President, the Group of 77 and China trusts that UNDP will adhere to the letter and spirit of this decision. Let me assure that we attach great importance to the work of UNDP and its strategic plan. We encourage UNDP to continue to keep the Member States informed while preparing the updated version of the strategic plan.

We request that this statement reflecting our position be included verbatim in the report of the session.

2. United States of America

In joining consensus on this decision, the United States would like to make three specific points:

The first concerns the UNDP role in upholding United Nations norms and standards, including those related to human rights. Respect for human rights has been enshrined in numerous international conventions and agreements since the founding of the United Nations, and must remain fundamental to UNDP activities. As the document we have just adopted makes clear, our heads of state and government resolved at the World Summit in 2005 "to support the further mainstreaming of human rights throughout the United Nations system". In that connection, let me add that UNDP must continue to implement the important outcomes of recent international summits and conferences: good governance, popular participation, and private sector development.

The second point concerns the use of "national execution" as a programme implementation modality. While we support it as a means of building national capacities, we recognize the urgent need to address the associated risks and weaknesses that the auditors have found. In this regard, the decision calls on UNDP

to foster "responsible financial management of operational activities". This must include addressing issues related to "national execution" in a transparent and accountable way to both programme countries and the Board.

The third and final point is on the role of UNDP in monitoring the Millennium Development Goals. The 2000 United Nations Millennium Declaration articulated the Goals and the 2005 World Summit Outcome reaffirmed them. The United States supports them. The so-called "MDG-8", however, cannot be found in either of these two Summit documents, or any other United Nations inter-governmental agreement. UNDP, therefore, cannot have a role in monitoring something that does not exist.

3. Eritrea, on behalf of the facilitators of agenda item 3

Mr. President, what a glorious 5 October 2007, and on a Friday! The Facilitators — Tarja Fernández of Finland and I — believe that history in a small measure has been made at this Board session this morning by the adoption of the long-awaited decision on the UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011. We averted a major crisis within UNDP which would have immensely affected the lives of our peoples that we, representatives in the Board, respectively serve. And we owe it to you, our distinguished President, who led us through and stepped in at that critical moment of the difficult negotiation process when invited. Congratulations are in order, Sir, for this extraordinary success.

We also owe it to the delegations and their fine diplomats who demonstrated great patience and flexibility in the process. We certainly owe it to the chief negotiators, Farhat Ayesha of Pakistan and Natasha Smith of Australia, and their able associates, Ruchi Ghanashyam of India and Thomas Gass of Switzerland, who diligently and faithfully served their respective constituencies. "Touch negotiators", I must say. We saw them at their best, and Tarja and I wish to thank them all for their constructive engagement and for their understanding of what was at stake.

And how can we forget Jane Haycock of the United Kingdom, who voluntarily showed up at every negotiation session, day or night, with her nice laptop, and captured the agreed changes in the draft decision on the spot, as the negotiations went along. She made life easy for us. Thank you, Jane, for your generous service.

We owe it further to the secretariat of UNDP, particularly the Bureau of Strategic Partnerships headed by Bruce Jenks. His dedicated team of professionals and the Executive Board secretariat stood ready at any time, all the time, to help us when help was needed.

Mr. President, indeed, this was, if not the most, admittedly one of the most difficult negotiation processes. Tarja and I are very happy that it is over. I am sure you all are too. I have personally facilitated many decisions of all sorts in this Board over the years, but I have not come across as difficult as this. But we all knew from the beginning that it was going to be difficult, and understandably so.

Did all sides get what they wanted? Definitely not. Didn't we share that golden rule with you at the start of the process to warn you what it would look like? The timeless wisdom that says, "In politics and diplomacy, you don't get what you deserve; you get what you negotiate", has proven to be true again, and it always will be. The bottom line is, Mr. President, we got what all of us can accept and cherish. And that is the true meaning of partnership. It is not *US* and *THEM* or vice versa. It

is *WE*, and what we can do together. This morning, we got what is good for the peoples that we serve. And that is what matters. Our peoples! "Ultimately, it is through serving others that we become fully human", Marsha Sinetar once said. Therefore, diplomats at this Board, rejoice for serving your people.

4. Cuba

Mr. Chairman, our delegation joins the statement of Pakistan on behalf of the G-77 and China, while at the same time we would like to make some comments regarding the UNDP strategic plan and the decision adopted today.

For more than three decades, Cuba has had a close and fruitful relationship of cooperation with UNDP, always acknowledging this Programme's important work, as well as its valuable contribution to development in our country.

We have always regarded UNDP as an important cooperation programme in matters of resource mobilization, transfer of technology, scientific and technologic capacity-building, through concrete projects of precise sectoral or national impact that contribute to economic and social development. We commend UNDP's work in this regard.

It is based on this very direction that our country wishes to continue to preserve UNDP's action, and not on a strategic vision which aims to give priority to activities that are increasingly less linked to the true economic and social development of our peoples, and to turn this programme into a supranational tool that attempts against its very character as a development programme.

This has been our approach throughout the process of drafting and adoption of this first strategic plan. Thus, we are not completely satisfied with the decision.

We recognize that as a result of the intense negotiation process certain balance has been achieved, in establishing the decision that the current strategic plan will be amended by the Board in January 2008 to finally consider important concerns of developing countries. We are fully confident in the UNDP Administrator's commitment to present an updated version of this plan, incorporating the provisions of the adopted decision. It would be further advisable to take into consideration the outcome of the TCPR that we will negotiate in the 62nd session of the United Nations General Assembly.

However, the decision, the strategic plan itself and its annexes continue to have instances of high concern for our delegation, which we would like to set down, faced with the current process and for future frameworks and intergovernmental forums where Cuba participates and this issue is addressed again.

In this regard, we think the purported priority given to such issues as civic engagement and human rights, including issues related to paragraph 15 of the decision, inter alia, are not appropriate, for these are not the direct competence of UNDP. These are issues to be addressed by the relevant United Nations bodies and agencies, which are accountable for and have a clear mandate to such effects, as for example the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

As the realization of human rights is a principle requiring universal treatment, Cuba opposes the attempt to turn the 134 offices of UNDP in the field, into human rights watchdog bodies, under the cooperation programmes and projects.

international cooperation in this important matter should be carried out through the bodies and agencies of universal scope that have been appointed to that end. We are concerned at the partial and discriminatory character in the approach to this issue that is tried to be carried forward through UNDP. This approach attempts against the States' national sovereignty.

Likewise, we consider that UNDP must try to avoid implementing elements that are not universally accepted and applicable as operational principles, as well as concepts, such as "inclusive human development and inclusive growth" that are neither defined nor accepted yet within the United Nations system.

Let us seize this opportunity to commend Mr. Kemal Dervis's work at the helm of UNDP. We are certain that, through his bright leadership, he has contributed to the good relations of cooperation between Cuba and UNDP.

In this context, we reiterate our satisfaction for the adoption of UNDP's country programme 2008-2012 for Cuba, which falls within the context of UNDAF signed between our country and the agencies, funds and programmes, which is a telling case of coordination, mutual respect and planning, and lays the foundations of all cooperation actions to be carried out in Cuba during that period.

Practice has proven the impossibility and inevitability of establishing single development patterns. Therefore, operational activities shall first and foremost answer to the national strategies and development priority of each country and respect the mandates given by the Member States.

Respect for the national sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity of the States, in accordance with the United Nations Charter, are general principles that must continue to guide operational activities anywhere in the world, for the key to success lies in their strict observance.

5. France, also on behalf of Germany, Spain, Portugal and Switzerland

This statement is made on behalf of Germany, Spain, Portugal, Switzerland and France.

We wish first to thank the various participants who have brought about the successful conclusion of negotiations on this strategic plan, foremost among them the Danish presidency, which spared no effort in achieving this goal.

We are pleased with the conclusion of these negotiations, which reflects the shared responsibility we all feel in ensuring that UNDP has the resources necessary to function.

In this regard, we encourage UNDP to pursue its efforts towards ensuring greater coherence in the operational activities of the United Nations, improving efficiency, and strengthening its accountability policy.

We are pleased to see that the misunderstandings related to the human rights-based approach have been clarified, grounded as they are in internationally agreed principles, and taking into account the links between respect for human rights and development, and between respect for human rights and economic growth in efforts towards poverty reduction.

We have no doubt that UNDP will continue to work towards these ends as it has always done, and that it will regain the confidence of its various partners with respect to this important matter.

6. Egypt

Mr. Chairman, I would like to express my delegation's thanks and appreciation for your efforts and the efforts exerted by all parties to reach the adoption of the UNDP strategic plan. I take the floor to associate my delegation with the statement of the distinguished representative of Pakistan on behalf of the G-77 and China, and to state the following:

(a) Egypt is not a member of the Board while this strategic plan has been adopted.

(b) Our views with regard to the content of the strategic plan have been made clear and conveyed to the Administrator, the Associate administrator, and to the Board several times, either through the G-77 and China or directly to them.

(c) The relationship between governments and civil society is the exclusive competence of the national governments of program countries.

(d) National ownership remains the overarching principle that governs how operational activities are carried out.

(e) The human rights-based approach in programming is not part of UNDP's mandate, and it does not have any normative, operational or monitoring competence with regard to human rights.

(f) Egypt will implement what the Egyptian Government signs with UNDP, as a framework which determines the role and responsibilities of the programme and the Resident Coordinator in Egypt.

7. Italy

Mr. President, Italy would like to thank the two facilitators, Tarja Fernandez and Tesfa Seyoum, as well as the President of this Board for the work done in leading us to the approval of the UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011.

Italy supports the UNDP strategic plan based on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals.

Italy also supports the UNDP focus on human development, including by further mainstreaming human rights throughout the United Nations, and looks forward to the discussion of the accountability framework at the first regular session 2008 of the Executive Board.

8. Benin

The African group, a member of the Executive Board, hereby associates itself with the statement made by Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

The African group, as a member of the Board, wishes simply to place UNDP on alert: Never again. Never again should we have to endure such a drama. To avoid it, UNDP must listen to programme countries.

Certainly, resource mobilization is important. But what use is access to resources if they are not oriented toward development? The answer to that question should lead UNDP to demonstrate humility and to cultivate the virtue of listening.

In closing, we wish to thank the President of the Board for his engagement and his passion. I do not overlook the facilitators, in particular our colleague Tesfa, of whom the group is proud, as he served as the representative of the African group.

I thank all those who, near or far, contributed to the adoption by consensus of this decision.

9. Sweden

First and foremost, I would like to commend you Mr. President for your competent leadership and thank you, your team and facilitators for your tremendous efforts at the meeting of the Executive Board, and in the ensuing weeks to reach an agreement on a strategic plan.

There are many parts of the strategy that we entirely embrace and we would once again like to give credit to UNDP for progress made.

While recognizing the difficult context, including the DPRK issue and current United Nations reform processes in which UNDP has been operating this past year, Sweden is not entirely satisfied regarding the process leading up to this session. We have heard self-critical remarks in this regard from the secretariat and hope that these will lead to constructive improvements for our future deliberations.

At the Executive Board meeting, we expressed our concern regarding the lack of attention to human rights in the draft strategic plan. Following extended negotiations, the result is, in our mind, not satisfactory.

It is regrettable that there is no consensus in this Board regarding the role of UNDP in mainstreaming and promoting human rights in the United Nations system.

It is also regrettable that there seems to be a misunderstanding about what a human rights-based approach to programming is all about: that it is not about political conditionality, but a tool for effectively supporting countries to achieve human development.

Sweden will carefully analyse the implications of this decision. The UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011, will be the basis for our partnership with UNDP throughout the period.

Finally, Mr President, it is evident to my delegation that UNDP has, and should continue to have, a key role in improving operational effectiveness and promoting United Nations values and coherence at the country level. In this regard, we look forward with optimism to engaging with other United Nations Member States this autumn and beyond to move important reforms forward.

10. Norway

Norway welcomes the endorsement of UNDP's strategic plan. Failure to do so would have been detrimental to the organization and could have caused serious damage to the organization's credibility. There are issues that we believe are not adequately covered in the strategic plan, but there needs to be a compromise, and that is what we have achieved. We do acknowledge that the document is an improvement on the previous MYFF in terms of focus and strategic direction.

The decision today is of utmost importance as it signals our confidence in the organization and the importance of the work that UNDP does. We will encourage an ongoing dialogue between UNDP and the Member States on implementation of the strategic plan to avoid questions of confidence in the future.

While we are pleased that a solution has been found, many questions are yet to be resolved. We regret that, due to the process that has taken place, Norway is not in a position to increase core funding to UNDP next year nor provide multi-year pledges since there are some key areas of importance that remain open for revision until the annual session 2008.

As stated previously, we regret that the issue of human rights-based approach to programming has become politicized and reiterate our position that UNDP's proposals in this regard were a reflection of General Assembly mandates to mainstream human rights in the work of all United Nations agencies. We look forward to continuing an open dialogue on these issues and to gain insights from what is already going on at programming level.

Norway welcomes the efforts and good spirit that allowed for an agreement on the strategic plan. We are now looking ahead and trust that this spirit of cooperation also will guide us in Member States' deliberation on the upcoming TCPR so that we together will ensure a stronger United Nations that delivers more and delivers better.

11. Netherlands

Thank you very much, Mr. President. Also we would like to commend you on a job well done, and also the facilitators of the resolution.

We also welcome the decision by the Board to approve the strategic plan. As the Associate Administrator already said, it was on all sides a give and take. Also from our side our positions on the strategic plan and on the issues which are important to us are well known, and I think it is also well known that we have viewed the strategic plan differently. But as I said, it's a give and take, and we welcome the approval by the Board of the strategic plan.

We look forward to constructive consultations in the next few months to update the strategic plan in the light of the decision we have taken today. For us, it is important that the spirit of compromise and cooperation in the Board has prevailed. That is in the interest of UNDP, but especially in the interest of the poor that the organization serves and that we all serve.

We hope that this spirit of cooperation and compromise will continue, because in the next few months there are important issues ahead of us, not just in the board in its further consultations, but also in the General Assembly, and we hope that we

can continue in this spirit to overcome our differences and to reach solutions on important issues in front of us.

12. Germany

Germany welcomes the decision on the consensus regarding the UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011 that enables UNDP to continue to work, and we also welcome the forward-looking spirit with which the adoption of the updated plan has been made possible.

We thank the Danish presidency as well as the facilitators for their untiring efforts — for their leadership, patience and perseverance.

We fully align ourselves with the statement made by France and would like to add some concrete remarks:

It remains our position that UNDP as a United Nations organization MUST uphold norms and standards agreed to by its Member States, including those related to human rights. We accepted paragraph 16 [of the decision] with the understanding that UNDP will continue to work in accordance with the aforementioned standards, based on its long tradition as a responsible United Nations organization.

Similarly, we have accepted paragraph 21 with the understanding that this paragraph does not justify the suspension of fundamental human rights norms by any member state.

Another point concerns the "principle of equitable geographical representation" which we accepted with the understanding that it is without prejudice to Article 101, paragraph 3 of the United Nations Charter.

Further, I would like to stress that we uphold our position that no Millennium Development Goal should be singled out.

Lastly, in our view, the character of the strategic plan as a "living document" only justifies adjustments to the plan in concordance with paragraph 3 (b) of the adopted decision.

United Nations DP/2008/2

Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund

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Decisions adopted by the Executive Board in 2007

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2007/1
Extension of eligibility for consecutive terms in the Bureau of the Executive Board

The Executive Board,

Taking note of rules 7.1 and 7.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, which provide, inter alia, that the Board, "taking into consideration the need to ensure equitable geographical representation", shall elect a Bureau consisting of a president and four vice-presidents "at its first regular session each year", and that "members of the Bureau shall be eligible for a second consecutive term";

Recognizing the need to facilitate the composition of the Bureau for 2007;

Decides to:

Waive, for 2007, on an exceptional basis and without setting a precedent for future years, rule 7.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board.

24 January 2007

2007/2
Annotated outline of the UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011

The Executive Board,

1. *Recalls* its decision 2006/1 requesting the Administrator of UNDP to submit an annotated outline of the multi-year funding framework (MYFF), 2008-2011, to the Executive Board at its first regular session 2007, and a draft version of the MYFF, 2008-2011, to the Board at its annual session 2007;

2. *Takes note of* the information provided by the Administrator on the strategic plan, programming arrangements and biennial support budget and of the intention of UNDP to align these three instruments, commencing with the 2008-2011 planning period, *looks forward to* receiving further elaboration on this alignment during the process of preparing the strategic plan, and *encourages* the further development of goals, objectives, outcomes and indicators, to sharpen the focus of the vision and business of the UNDP strategic plan and to ensure proper evaluation, reporting of results, transparency and accountability;

3. *Requests* the Administrator, in preparing the draft strategic plan for the annual session, to take into account the comments of Member States;

4. *Requests* UNDP to reflect on lessons and challenges from implementing the current MYFF, 2004-2007, in the context of changes that may be proposed in the new strategic plan, as compared to the MYFF, especially in terms of the main focus areas, business practices and organizational structures;

5. *Takes note of* the timelines proposed by UNDP for the preparation of the strategic plan, 2008-2011, and *requests* the Administrator to consult widely with Member States and United Nations partner organizations;

6. *Also requests* the Administrator, as well as the Executive Secretary of UNCDF, the Executive Directors of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), and the

Executive Coordinator of the United Nations Volunteers programme (UNV), in planning and reporting, to harmonize terminology, definitions and formats, using United Nations Development Group-harmonized terminology as a basis wherever possible.

26 January 2007

2007/3
Assessment of programming arrangements, 2004-2007

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note of* the assessment of programming arrangements, 2004-2007 (DP/2007/8);

2. *Encourages* UNDP to identify and develop proposals for change that will be directly linked to and supportive of the implementation of the UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011;

3. *Requests* UNDP to provide the Executive Board, at its annual session 2007, information explaining how the current programming arrangements function and a draft proposal for the successor programming arrangements;

4. *Also requests* UNDP, in preparing the successor programming arrangements, to seek further simplification, harmonization and improvement of the programming arrangements, taking into consideration existing legislation, the changes foreseen as part of the new strategic plan, 2008-2011, and best practices within the funds and programmes.

26 January 2007

2007/4
Evaluation of UNDP assistance to conflict-affected countries

The Executive Board,

Having considered the evaluation of UNDP assistance to conflict-affected countries (DP/2007/3) and the management response to that evaluation (DP/2007/4),

1. *Requests* UNDP to review its management response to the evaluation of UNDP assistance to conflict-affected countries as contained in DP/2007/4, taking into account the UNDP mandate and the views expressed by the Member States, and to present the revised response for the consideration of the Executive Board at its annual session 2007;

2. *Emphasizes* the need for UNDP to develop its activities within the framework of the conflict-affected countries' programmes;

3. *Requests* the Administrator to develop, in wide consultation with Member States, a strategic vision on assistance to conflict-affected countries complementing the elaboration of the new strategic plan, to be presented for the consideration of the Board at its annual session 2007;

4. *Stresses* the need for UNDP to work with United Nations organizations to increase awareness of the urgent need to integrate development considerations in peacebuilding in conflict-affected countries;

5. *Urges* dialogue and cooperation with the Bretton Woods Institutions, regional development banks and relevant regional organizations to strengthen UNDP efforts in assisting conflict-affected countries.

26 January 2007

2007/5
Evaluation of the national human development report system

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes* note of the evaluation of national human development report system (DP/2007/5) and the management response to that evaluation (DP/2007/6);

2. *Requests* the Administrator to accord high priority to supporting the national human development report system, ensuring sufficient financial, human and technical resources for their regular production and follow-up;

3. *Urges* UNDP to clarify, where relevant, the relationship between national human development reports and other reports such as the Millennium Development Goal reports and poverty reduction strategy papers in order that they better complement each other;

4. *Stresses* the need for UNDP to continue to strengthen national statistical and analytical capacity to promote national ownership of national human development reports;

5. *Requests* UNDP to find ways to better draw upon national human development reports for the elaboration of the global Human Development Report;

6. *Requests* the Administrator to report on progress in implementing this decision in his annual report on evaluation at the first regular session 2008.

26 January 2007

2007/6
Joint assessment of the progress in the implementation of the cooperation agreement between UNIDO and UNDP

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note* of the joint assessment of the progress in the implementation of the cooperation agreement between UNIDO and UNDP, together with the joint management response (DP/2007/7);

2. *Requests* the Administrator to inform the Executive Board on the operational modalities for the future implementation of the agreement, including the financial, management, evaluation and monitoring issues, and in this regard, to explore the possibility of establishing a joint task force to examine these issues.

26 January 2007

2007/7
Annual progress report of the Administrator on the implementation of the gender action plan and the follow-up to the report of the Administrator on the organizational assessment of UNIFEM

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note* of the annual progress report of the Administrator on the implementation of the gender action plan (DP/2007/9) as requested in its decisions 2005/27 and, in particular, 2006/3;

2. *Also takes note* of the follow up to the report of the Administrator on the organizational assessment of UNIFEM (DP/2007/10) requested in its decision 2006/5;

3. *Notes* that UNDP and UNIFEM are engaged in further clarifying roles with a view, inter alia, to engaging in joint programming during 2007;

4. *Requests* UNDP and UNIFEM to establish closer inter-organizational collaboration to promote gender equality at the country level;

5. *Also requests* that the lessons learned from the first year of the gender action plan on, inter alia, the need to track results and the allocation of sufficient human and financial resources, be applied to the further implementation of the gender action plan as well as to the elaboration of the UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011.

26 January 2007

2007/8
Strategic partnership between UNDP and UNCDF

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note of* the steps that the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Secretary of UNCDF have taken to finalize the strategic agreement between UNDP and UNCDF;

2. *Also takes note* of the proposed partnership framework for UNDP and UNCDF (DP/2007/11);

3. *Requests* the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Secretary of UNCDF to further develop this partnership, particularly with respect to the preparation of the UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011, the programming arrangements and the biennial support budget, to aim for the achievement of the strategic and operational objectives presented in the report;

4. *Also requests* the Administrator and the Executive Secretary to continue their efforts to secure stable multi-year programme funding for UNCDF activities in the least developed countries;

5. *Further requests* the Administrator and the Executive Secretary to consult with the Executive Board on the strategic partnership and report progress at the annual session 2007.

26 January 2007

2007/9
Report on the financial and operational situation of UNOPS

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note of* the report on the financial and operational situation of United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS);

2. *Welcomes* the efforts by UNOPS to define a business strategy and to realign the structure and focus of UNOPS to meet the needs of the United Nations system and to promote the effectiveness and viability of the organization;

3. *Appreciates* the considerable effort undertaken by UNOPS to ensure the resubmission of proper financial statements in compliance with the Board deadline, and *requests* UNOPS to provide for review of the audited financial statements;

4. *Notes* the study being undertaken by the Administrator on the options for the potential merger between the Inter-Agency Procurement Services Office and UNOPS, and *encourages* UNDP to inform the Board of the outcome of the study at its annual session 2007;

5. *Decides* on the following regular schedule for submission by UNOPS to the Executive Board:

(a) First regular session: Biennial planning and budget framework (alternate years: 2008, 2010, and so forth);

(b) Annual session: Annual report, including financial results for prior year, and, as of 2008, a report on contributions to results;

(c) Second regular session: Audited financial statements (alternate years: 2008, 2010, and so forth) and UNOPS management response to internal audit, annually.

26 January 2007

2007/10
Joint UNDP and UNFPA report on the implementation of the international public sector accounting standards and reports on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, 2004-2005 (UNDP and UNFPA)

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note of* the reports of UNDP and UNFPA on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, 2004-2005 (DP/2007/14 and DP/FPA/2007/1) and of the reports of the United Nations Board of Auditors (A/61/5/Add.1 and A/61/5/Add.7), and *requests* the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Director of UNFPA to take rapid action to fully implement the audit recommendations within the prescribed time frame;

2. *Acknowledges* that this was the first report of the Board of Auditors conducted after the implementation of the Atlas system, and *requests* the Administrator and the Executive Director to accelerate the implementation of the audit recommendations concerning Atlas;

3. *Notes* the ongoing efforts to strengthen management and control systems, including risk management, ethical and professional conduct, and anti-fraud and anti-corruption measures, in accordance with Executive Board decision 2006/8;

4. *Takes note of* the efforts made by UNDP and UNFPA management to complete monthly bank reconciliations for country offices and headquarters units and to strengthen internal control, and *requests* that those efforts be intensified;

5. *Reiterates* its request to continue to mainstream risk management in UNDP and UNFPA business processes, and *encourages* both organizations to ensure that risk management is integrated into the framework of management accountability;

6. *Reaffirms* the need to promote, to the fullest extent possible, the use of national execution as a means to build national capacity, and therefore *requests* UNDP and UNFPA to inform the Executive Board of the measures they are taking to simplify the procedures associated with this mode of execution, and to propose safeguard measures to address the related recommendations in the reports of the Board of Auditors (A/61/5/Add.1 and A/61/5/Add.7);

7. *Requests* the Administrator of UNDP to accelerate the strengthening of internal staff capacity through the professional certification programme as a longer-term approach to addressing underlying audit issues, in anticipation of the implementation of the international public sector accounting standards;

8. *Takes note that* the Administrator of UNDP is exploring alternative sustainable support structures for improving bank reconciliations, accounting and the implementation of Atlas, including, but not limited to, the implementation of shared subregional service centres, especially in regions where staff capacity is insufficient; and *requests* the Administrator to address this issue in consultation with other United Nations funds and programmes;

9. *Requests* the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Director of UNFPA to build on progress achieved and to continue to implement the recommendations of the Board of Auditors in a timely fashion and *also requests* the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Director of UNFPA to provide the Executive Board with a report at its first regular session 2008, which will include a management response to the issues emphasized by the Board of Auditors and an update on the main recommendations contained in documents A/61/5/Add.1 and A/61/5/Add.7;

10. *Takes note of* the steps taken by the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Director of UNFPA to work with UNICEF and other United Nations organizations to standardize their financial management in the context of the transition to the international public sector accounting standards; and *requests* the Administrator and the Executive Director to inform the Executive Board of their progress in that regard.

26 January 2007

2007/11
Draft outline of the UNFPA strategic plan, 2008-2011

The Executive Board,

1. *Notes* the information provided by the UNFPA Executive Director on the draft outline of the UNFPA strategic plan, 2008-2011, and *also notes* the intention of the

Executive Director to provide a draft strategic plan, 2008-2011, three weeks prior to the annual session 2007, for formal discussion;

2. *Notes also* the intention of the Executive Director to present the draft strategic plan, the draft global and regional programmes, the draft resource allocation system and the draft organizational structure in a comprehensive package at the annual session 2007, *looks forward to* receiving further elaboration on this package during the process of preparing the strategic plan, and *encourages* the further development of goals, objectives, outcomes and indicators, to sharpen the focus of the vision and business of the UNFPA strategic plan and to ensure proper evaluation, reporting of results, transparency and accountability;

3. *Further notes* the timeline proposed by UNFPA for the preparation of its prospective strategic plan, and *requests* the Executive Director to consult widely with Member States and United Nations partner organizations;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director, in preparing the draft UNFPA strategic plan for the annual session 2007, to take into account the comments of Member States;

5. *Requests* UNFPA to reflect on lessons and challenges from implementing its current multi-year funding framework (MYFF), 2004-2007, in the context of changes that may be proposed in the new strategic plan, as compared to the MYFF, especially in terms of the main focus areas, business practices and organizational structures;

6. *Also requests* the Executive Director, in planning and reporting, to harmonize terminology, definitions and formats, using United Nations Development Group-harmonized terminology as a basis, wherever possible.

26 January 2007

2007/12
Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its first regular session 2007

The Executive Board,

Recalls that during its first regular session 2007, it:

Item 1

Elected the following members of the Bureau for 2007:

President
H.E. Mr. Carsten Staur (Denmark)

Vice-President:
Ms. Fernande Afiavi Houngbedji (Benin)

Vice-President:
H.E. Mr. Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury (Bangladesh)

Vice-President:
Mr. José Briz Gutiérrez (Guatemala)

Vice-President:
Mr. Andriy Nikitov (Ukraine)

Adopted the agenda and work plan for its first regular session 2007 (DP/2007/L.1);

Approved the report of the second regular session 2006 (DP/2007/1);

Reviewed the annual work plan 2007 (DP/2007/CRP.1), and agreed to finalize it following further discussion;

Reviewed the tentative work plan for the annual session 2007, and agreed to finalize it following further discussion;

Agreed to the following schedule for the remaining sessions of the Executive Board in 2007:

Annual session 2007:	11-22 June 2007
Second regular session 2007:	10-14 September 2007

UNDP segment

Item 2
UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011

Adopted decision 2007/2 of 26 January 2006 on the annotated outline of the UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011.

Item 3
Programming arrangements

Adopted decision 2007/3 on the assessment of programming arrangements, 2004-2007.

Item 4
Country programmes and related matters

Approved the following country programmes:

Africa: Central African Republic, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe;

Arab States: Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Yemen;

Asia and the Pacific: Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia and Thailand;

Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States: Croatia, Republic of Moldova and the Republic of Montenegro;

Latin America and the Caribbean: Belize, Brazil, Chile, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama, Paraguay and Uruguay;

Agreed that UNDP would submit a revised country programme for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, for approval by the Executive Board, as soon as the required adjustments had been made.

Item 5
Evaluation

Adopted decision 2007/4 of 26 January 2007 on the evaluation of UNDP assistance to conflict-affected countries;

Adopted decision 2007/5 of 26 January 2007 on the evaluation of the national human development report system;

Adopted decision 2007/6 of 26 January 2007 on the joint assessment of the progress in the implementation of the cooperation agreement between the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and UNDP.

Item 6
Gender in UNDP

Adopted decision 2007/7 of 26 January 2007 on the annual progress report of the Administrator on the implementation of the gender action plan and the follow-up to the report of the Administrator on the organizational assessment of UNIFEM.

Item 7
United Nations Capital Development Fund

Adopted decision 2007/8 of 26 January 20067 on the strategic partnership between UNDP and UNCDF.

Item 8
United Nations Office for Project Services

Adopted decision 2007/9 of 26 January 2007 on the report on the financial and operational situation of UNOPS.

Joint UNDP/UNFPA segment

Item 1
Organizational matters

Adopted decision 2007/1 of 26 January 2007 on the extension of eligibility for consecutive terms in the Bureau of the Executive Board.

Items 9, 12 and 13
Financial, budgetary and administrative matters and Recommendations of the Board of Auditors

Adopted decision 2007/10 of 26 January 2007 on the joint UNDP and UNFPA report on the implementation of the international public sector accounting standards and reports on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, 2004-2005 (UNDP and UNFPA).

Item 14
Joint report to the Economic and Social Council

Took note of the joint report of the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Director of UNFPA to the Economic and Social Council (E/2007/5).

UNFPA segment

Item 10
Country programmes and related matters

Approved the following country programmes:

Africa: Central African Republic, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe;

Arab States, Europe and Central Asia: Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Republic of Moldova, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Yemen;

Asia and the Pacific: Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Myanmar and Thailand;

Latin America and the Caribbean: Brazil, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean countries, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay and Uruguay.

Item 11
UNFPA role in emergency preparedness, humanitarian response, and transition and recovery

Heard an oral report on the UNFPA role in emergency preparedness, humanitarian response, and transition and recovery.

Item 15
Other matters

Held an informal consultation on the UNFPA strategic plan, 2008-2011, and other matters; adopted decision 2007/11 on the draft outline of the UNFPA strategic plan, 2008-2011.

Joint meeting

Held a joint meeting of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP on 19 and 22 January 2007, which addressed the following topics: (a) natural disaster preparedness; (b) MDG-1: interlinked approaches to poverty alleviation; (c) United Nations reform; and (d) gender dimensions of HIV/AIDS.

26 January 2007

2007/13
Report on funding commitments to UNFPA

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note* of the report on funding commitments to UNFPA (DP/FPA/2007/8), *welcomes* the substantial increase in the 2006 regular income level, as well as the increase in 2006 co-financing income, resulting, inter alia, from increased contributions from a number of donors, and *also welcomes* the contributions made by programme countries, which have enabled UNFPA to reach its highest ever number of donors;

2. *Emphasizes* that regular resources are the bedrock of UNFPA and essential to maintaining the multilateral, neutral and universal nature of its work, and *encourages* UNFPA to further mobilize these resources while also mobilizing supplementary resources for its programmes;

3. *Recognizes* that sustaining and improving the UNFPA funding level will require countries that are in a position to do so, to augment their funding efforts during the period of the UNFPA strategic plan, 2008-2011;

4. *Encourages* all countries that are in a position to do so to make contributions early in the year and to make multi-year pledges;

5. *Emphasizes* that UNFPA requires strong political and increased financial support as well as increased and predictable core funding in order to enhance its assistance to countries to fully integrate the agenda of the International Conference on Population and Development into national development strategies and frameworks.

15 June 2007

2007/14
Interim allocation for the UNFPA biennial support budget, 2008-2009

The Executive Board,

1. *Approves* an interim one-month budget allocation for January 2008, in the amount of $9 million, pending final approval of the UNFPA biennial support budget for 2008-2009;

2. *Agrees* that the interim budget allocation will be part of and not incremental to the biennial support budget for 2008-2009.

15 June 2007

2007/15
Review of the UNFPA policy on indirect cost recovery

The Executive Board,

1. *Recalls* decision 2005/12 on the recovery of indirect costs for co-financing;

2. *Takes note* of the present report (DP/FPA/2007/9) and of the status of implementation of the new UNFPA cost-recovery policy;

3. *Reiterates* that regular resources, because of their untied nature, are the bedrock of contributions to UNFPA, and that regular resources should not subsidize the support costs of projects and programmes funded by other resources;

4. *Welcomes* the progress made within the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) on harmonizing cost-recovery policies and *encourages* UNFPA to continue its active involvement in the UNDG working groups on this issue;

5. *Urges* the Executive Director of UNFPA to intensify consultations with the UNDG in order to reach a common agreement on what constitutes direct costs;

6. *Further encourages* UNFPA to consult with UNDP and UNICEF in order to harmonize cost-recovery principles for programme country contributions;

7. *Takes note* of the transparency and simplicity of the new cost-recovery policy, and *reaffirms* its endorsement of the new policy;

8. *Encourages* UNFPA to present proposals to the Executive Board, within the biennial support budget, 2008-2009, on how indirect cost recovery can be used to finance the management and administrative functions that support programme implementation;

9. *Requests* UNFPA to provide to the Executive Board, at its second regular session 2009, an update on the UNFPA policy on indirect cost recovery.

15 June 2007

2007/16
UNFPA multi-year funding framework cumulative report, 2004-2007, and the UNFPA draft strategic plan, 2008-2011

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note of* the UNFPA multi-year funding framework cumulative report, 2004-2007 (DP/FPA/2007/7 (Part 1), the statistical overview (DP/FPA/2007/7, Part 1, Add.1), and the joint report of UNDP and UNFPA on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in 2006 (DP/2007/17/Add.1 – DP/FPA/2007/7 (Part II);

2. *Notes* the achievements reported in the UNFPA multi-year funding framework cumulative report, 2004-2007, including progress on the six outcomes of the strategic results framework;

3. *Notes* the analysis of lessons learned and *encourages* UNFPA to make use of these lessons in formulating its strategic plan, 2008-2011;

4. *Notes with appreciation* the participatory and consultative process conducted by UNFPA in developing the draft strategic plan, 2008-2011; the draft global and regional programme, 2008-2011; and the draft resource allocation system;

5. *Notes* the efforts made by UNFPA to strengthen results-based management and *requests* UNFPA to continue to strengthen the results-based focus in its programming;

6. *Notes* the clear structure of the draft strategic plan, 2008-2011;

7. *Encourages* UNFPA to make the indicators at all levels more precise, in order to better measure its performance;

8. *Requests* UNFPA to take into account the comments of the Executive Board in finalizing the strategic plan, 2008-2011; the global and regional programme, 2008-2011; and the resource allocation system.

15 June 2007

2007/17
Status of funding commitments to UNDP

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note of* the report on the status of regular resources funding commitments to UNDP and its funds and programmes for 2007 and onwards (DP/2007/18);

2. *Notes with concern* that after exceeding the annual targets for 2004 and 2005, UNDP has not been able to meet the third (2006) annual funding target of its second multi-year funding framework (MYFF), covering the period 2004-2007;

3. *Notes with appreciation* that current projections suggest that meeting the overall multi-year funding framework target by 2007 – the end year of the current cycle – is within reach;

4. *Stresses* that regular resources form the bedrock of UNDP finances, and *requests* all countries that have not yet done so to provide contributions to regular resources for 2007;

5. *Encourages* those countries that have already made their contributions to consider supplementing their 2007 contributions, if they are in a position to do so, so as to regain the momentum in rebuilding the regular resource base of UNDP;

6. *Also encourages* Member States to announce pledges – on a multi-year basis if feasible – and payment schedules for the new planning cycle covering the period 2008-2011, and to adhere to such pledges and payment schedules thereafter.

19 June 2007

2007/18
Report on UNDP cost recovery effectiveness

The Executive Board,

1. *Recalls* decision 2003/22 in which the current approach to cost recovery was endorsed and *takes note of* the report on the assessment of the cost recovery effectiveness (DP/2007/36), while noting that the report does not contain sufficient information on the costs incurred in providing management support, as requested in decision 2006/30;

2. *Reiterates* that regular resources, because of their untied nature, inter alia, are the bedrock of the operational activities of UNDP, and, in this regard, notes with concern that the relative share of regular resources available to UNDP has decreased, and *encourages* all donors to strive to increase contributions to regular resources;

3. *Recalls* the objectives set out in decision 2006/30 that all other resources should support the priorities in the strategic plan and that regular resources should not subsidize the support costs for programmes funded by other resources;

4. *Encourages* UNDP to provide detailed information to programme country partners on the income and expenditure of programme support costs in country programme budgets;

5. *Encourages* UNDP to present a proposal to the Executive Board, with the biennial support budget, 2008-2009, on how indirect cost recovery is allocated in support of programme implementation;

6. *Welcomes* the recent progress in alignment of cost recovery policy among United Nations Development Group Executive Committee agencies, and encourages the Administrator, in his role as chair of the UNDG and in consultation with other UN agencies, to further develop a common approach to recovery of costs for management of joint activities and the provision of services;

7. *Encourages* UNDP to intensify consultations with UNFPA and UNICEF to standardize the methodology of calculating administrative costs; and to harmonize cost-recovery principles for programme country contributions with the objective of ensuring full recovery of all costs for implementing activities financed from these contributions;

8. *Decides* that, for the time being:

(a) A recovery rate of 7 per cent be adopted for recovery of indirect support costs for new third party contributions;

(b) Maintain a basic 3 per cent recovery rate of indirect support costs for all new programme country contributions;

9. *Decides* to maintain the authority of UNDP to grant waivers to the cost recovery rate through a case-by-case review that would take into account specific priorities, modalities incurring lower indirect costs, and harmonization goals, and to inform the Board on all exceptions in the annual financial reporting;

10. *Requests* the Administrator to review existing framework agreements and other co-financing arrangements in order to align their relevant provisions with this decision;

11. *Requests* the Administrator to keep the Board informed through the annual financial reporting on the income accrued from third party contributions, programme country contributions and pass-through fund management, its allocation and reimbursement of management functions resources through the biennial support budget;

12. *Requests* the Administrator to report on the implementation of the cost-recovery policy, including the impact of the applied rates on regular and other resources, as well as the use and allocation of indirect costs recovered, and with possible options of rate variations taking into account execution modalities and management expenses, for consideration at the second regular session 2009 in conjunction with the medium-term review of the strategic plan and the submission of the biennial support budget, 2010-2011.

19 June 2007

2007/19
Interim allocation for the UNDP biennial support budget, 2008-2009

The Executive Board,

1. *Approves* an interim budget allocation for January 2008, in the amount of $31.5 million, pending final approval of the UNDP biennial support budget for 2008-2009;

2. *Agrees* that the interim budget allocation will be part of and not incremental to the biennial support budget for 2008-2009.

20 June 2007

2007/20
Interim allocation for the UNIFEM biennial support budget, 2008-2009

The Executive Board,

1. *Approves* an interim budget allocation for January 2008, in the amount of $1 million, pending final approval of the UNIFEM biennial support budget for 2008-2009;

2. *Agrees* that the interim budget allocation will be part of and not incremental to the biennial support budget for 2008-2009.

19 June 2007

2007/21
UNFPA multi-year funding framework cumulative report, 2004-2007, and related matters

The Executive Board,

1. In order to ensure the efficient and effective delivery of the UNFPA mandate, *requests* the Executive Director of UNFPA to present to the Executive Board, at its second regular session 2007, an all-inclusive report on the existing UNFPA accountability framework and its monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

20 June 2007

2007/22
Multi-year funding framework cumulative report on UNDP performance and results for 2004-2006, and related matters

The Executive Board,

1. In order to ensure the efficient and effective delivery of the UNDP mandate, *requests* the Administrator to present to the Executive Board, at its second regular

session 2007, an all-inclusive report on the existing UNDP accountability framework and its monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

21 June 2007

2007/23
UNIFEM multi-year funding framework cumulative report, 2004-2007

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note of* the cumulative report of UNIFEM on the multi-year funding framework (DP/2007/35);

2. *Recognizes* the contribution of UNIFEM in supporting programme countries to achieve internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, as well as by assisting countries in linking progress on the Goals with efforts to advance the Beijing Platform for Action, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and Security Council resolution 1325;

3. *Takes note of* the efforts of UNIFEM to support the implementation of the triennial comprehensive policy review, including through its strengthened partnership with the United Nations Development Programme and other United Nations organizations, and its provision of technical expertise on gender equality through the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) policy development and coordination mechanisms;

4. *Appreciates* the UNIFEM leadership of the UNDG task team on gender equality, and *encourages* the Administrator, in his role as Chair of the UNDG, to ensure that the work of the task team on strengthening accountability and on implementing gender equality in United Nations country teams is supported and operationalized;

5. *Encourages* UNIFEM to develop its strategic plan, 2008-2011, by taking into account the results, achievements and lessons learned from its multi-year funding framework, 2004-2007, and *further encourages* UNIFEM to set out the concrete steps that it will take to promote gender equality within the United Nations development cooperation system, while considering its founding General Assembly resolutions 31/133 and 39/125;

6. *Requests* UNIFEM to take into account the comments of the Executive Board in finalizing its strategic plan, 2008-2011;

7. *Takes note* of the fact that while UNIFEM exceeded its overall resource projections, its ability to plan adequately was hampered by the absence of multi-year funding commitments and the modest growth in core contributions, and *encourages* Member States in a position to do so to ensure that UNIFEM reaches its target of $40 million in core resources in 2007;

8. *Encourages* UNIFEM to review its cost recovery policy and to report to the Executive Board, at its first regular session 2008, on this policy.

21 June 2007

2007/24
Annual report on evaluation

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note* of the annual report on evaluation (DP/2007/21);

2. *Commends* UNDP for its progress in implementing the evaluation policy (2006/20), including the new practice of management responses, and *underscores* the importance of the continued independence of the Evaluation office and its relationship with the Executive Board;

3. *Requests* UNDP to improve the use of evaluation by making additional efforts to engage national stakeholders, by taking into account the views of national governments, as appropriate, and being mindful of the need for considering evaluation timing, sound planning, and broad dissemination of evaluation findings in a standardized format, using terminology that is widely understood;

4. *Urges* UNDP to continue to strengthen country and regional office capacity to manage evaluations, and *stresses* the need for a more systematic planning of evaluation, including the identification of appropriate resources and funding sources;

5. *Reiterates* the importance of incorporating capacity-building mechanisms at the project design and implementation stages, and *requests* management to intensify efforts so that programme and project design contains capacity development elements to improve the management capacity of national implementing institutions, with a view to achieving sustainability;

6. *Encourages* UNDP to continue to provide support to programme countries to develop national capacities in evaluation, increase awareness of the importance of evaluation as a basis for enhancing learning and programming decisions, and *also encourages* UNDP to ensure that evaluations are responsive to national demand;

7. *Requests* UNDP to address the key findings and lessons learned from previous evaluations in the preparation of the 2008-2011 strategic plan;

8. *Approves* the proposed programme of work for the Evaluation Office for 2007-2008, and *stresses* the importance of clear linkages of subsequent programmes of work with the future strategic plan.

22 June 2007

2007/25
Report on the implementation of the third cooperation framework for South-South cooperation, 2005-2007

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note* of the report on the implementation of the third cooperation framework for South-South cooperation, 2005-2007 (DP/2007/30);

2. *Encourages* further efforts to mainstream South-South cooperation in UNDP, in the course of implementing the UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011;

3. *Also encourages* the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation to promote South-South cooperation initiatives within the United Nations development system;

4. *Stresses* that capacity-building, knowledge sharing, and the dissemination of best practices and studies, should continue to be promoted in the technical and economic cooperation initiatives supported by the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, as a means of achieving self-reliance and sustainability;

5. *Requests* the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, whenever dealing with specific thematic areas, to ensure adequate coordination with the relevant organizations of the United Nations system and with regional and multilateral initiatives;

6. *Emphasizes* that the implementation of the three support platforms of the third cooperation framework for South-South cooperation will also utilize available local capacities in developing countries;

7. *Encourages* the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation to intensify its efforts to explore and undertake additional, innovative resource-mobilization initiatives to attract more resources, both financial and in-kind, to supplement regular resources and other funds for activities involving South-South cooperation;

8. *Looks forward to* the report of the ongoing evaluation of South-South cooperation and the response of UNDP as important tools in further considering the role of UNDP in South-South cooperation.

22 June 2007

2007/26
Multi-year funding framework cumulative report on UNDP performance and results for 2004-2006, and related matters

The Executive Board

1. *Notes* the cumulative report on the UNDP multi-year funding framework (MYFF), 2004-2006 (DP/2007/17);

2. *Notes* the achievements reported in the UNDP multi-year funding framework cumulative report, 2004-2006, including uneven progress in some of the practice areas; and *also notes* the information provided on results and resources;

3. *Notes* the lessons learned, and *reiterates* its expectation that the lessons learned during this period will be incorporated in the strategic plan, 2008-2011;

4. *Notes* the increased strategic orientation of programme activities achieved through the establishment of goals and outcomes at corporate and programme levels and through the reduction of service lines, and *also notes* that the results-based management system underlying the MYFF 2004-2007, is still fragmented and incomplete;

5. *Also notes* that the integration of the development effectiveness drivers in the implementation of the 2004-2007 MYFF has been uneven, with insufficient emphasis on national ownership, South-South cooperation and gender equality, and *emphasizes* the need to strengthen these in the draft strategic plan, 2008-2011;

6. *Further notes* that earmarked resources have continued to far exceed the regular resources of UNDP, and that this affects the ability of UNDP to fulfil its mandate adequately and to effectively support the development agenda of partner countries; and that unearmarked contributions are vital for the coherence and harmonization of operational activities for development;

7. *Notes* with concern that the current draft of the strategic plan 2008-2011 does not sufficiently reflect concerns expressed by Member States during the consultative process, and therefore *requests* further consultations with the Executive Board, while also underlining the importance of duly consulting the principal United Nations partners in finalizing the strategic plan;

8. *Requests* UNDP to use General Assembly resolution 59/250, through which the General Assembly establishes key system-wide policy orientations for the development cooperation and country-level modalities of the United Nations system, as the relevant overarching policy framework for the UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011;

9. *Requests* that the proposed draft strategic plan, 2008-2011, take into account the views and comments made by Member States, and in that context, *looks forward* to further discussion of the various chapters of the draft strategic plan.

21 June 2007

2007/27
Annual report of the Executive Director

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note* of the annual report of the Executive Director of United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) (DP/2007/31);

2. *Welcomes* the progress of UNOPS in implementing measures to improve its effectiveness and efficiency in line with its business strategy;

3. *Takes note of* the 2006 statement of revenues and expenditures, and of the fact that UNOPS contributed $8.9 million to its operational reserve;

4. *Also takes note of* the high level of 2006 business acquisition, which demonstrates continuing trust on the part of UNOPS partners;

5. *Requests* UNDP and UNOPS to give priority to the reconciliation of outstanding issues in the UNDP/UNOPS interfund account;

6. *Requests* UNDP and UNOPS to provide to the Executive Board, at its second regular session 2007, further details on the intended partial merger of certain functions of the Inter-Agency Procurement Services Office into UNOPS, including any comments and recommendations of the Management Coordination Committee of UNOPS.

22 June 2007

2007/28
Results-oriented annual report for 2006 and the strategic partnership between UNDP and the United Nations Capital Development Fund

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note* of the results-oriented annual report (DP/2007/33) of the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and of the progress report on the UNDP-UNCDF strategic partnership (DP/2007/34);

2. *Notes with appreciation* the progress that UNCDF has made in implementing its business plan as well as its efforts in expanding its donor base and in improving burden-sharing;

3. *Expresses concern* that while UNCDF resource mobilization results improved in 2006, UNCDF did not reach its 2006 resource mobilization targets;

4. *Welcomes* the progress made in integrating the UNCDF contribution in the areas of local governance and micro-finance into the UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011;

5. *Requests* UNDP and UNCDF to finalize the details of their strategic partnership in time to present a report on this partnership to the first regular session 2008, particularly with respect to: (a) integrating the UNCDF contribution into the UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011; and (b) achieving the strategic and operational objectives of the partnership, as outlined in document DP/2007/11;

6. *Reiterates* its request that UNDP and UNCDF continue their efforts to secure stable programme funding for UNCDF activities, and *requests* UNDP and UNCDF to complete their consultations on appropriate funding strategies and programming arrangements, and to present a detailed proposal to the Executive Board at its second regular session 2007;

7. *Stresses* the need to strengthen the financial situation of UNCDF, and *reiterates* its call to donor countries, and other countries in a position to do so, to provide and sustain additional funding support for UNCDF programmes and activities in the least developed countries;

8. *Requests* UNCDF to inform the Executive Board of its cost-recovery policy, and to report to the Board on this policy at its first regular session 2008.

22 June 2007

2007/29
Internal audit and oversight: UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note of* the reports on internal audit and oversight of UNDP (DP/2007/37) and UNFPA (DP/FPA/2007/14), and of the report of the UNDP Office of Audit and Performance Review on internal audit services to UNOPS in 2006 (DP/2007/38);

2. *Welcomes* the greater attention of the internal audit reports to key and recurrent management issues; the clarity and format of the recommendations; and risk-based audit planning;

3. *Urges* UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to continue to submit management responses to the Executive Board; and *stresses* that the continuous improvement of audit reporting and the submission to the Executive Board of management responses provide assurance regarding the functioning of internal controls;

4. *Recalls* General Assembly resolution 59/250, which calls upon United Nations organizations to use, to the fullest extent possible, national execution and available national expertise and technologies as the norm in implementing operational activities;

5. *Calls* upon UNDP and UNFPA to further strengthen the national execution modality by addressing the operational risks and weaknesses identified in the audit reports, with particular attention given to capacity-building, and *requests* UNDP and UNFPA to inform the Executive Board of the implementation of the proposed actions;

6. *Also requests* the Administrator of UNDP to pay particular attention to risks related to the Atlas system, bank reconciliations and the management of trust-fund deficits, and to inform the Executive Board of the actions taken to mitigate those risks;

7. *Further requests* the Executive Director of UNFPA to pay particular attention to risks related to business processes and information technology, and to inform the Executive Board of the actions taken to mitigate those risks;

8. *Urges* the implementation of the recommendations of the audit reports by the management of UNDP and UNFPA, and *requests* UNDP and UNFPA to report on the implementation of these recommendations in their respective management responses, to be submitted to the annual session 2008 of the Executive Board;

9. *Requests* the Executive Director of UNOPS to ensure that the new audit mechanism to be implemented in July 2007 is effective and that adequate staff are provided to implement it, and *further requests* the Executive Director of UNOPS to provide an oral report to the second regular session 2007 of the Executive Board on the new audit mechanism;

10. *Notes* that accountability and transparency are integral to sound management;

11. *Requests* the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Director of UNFPA to submit, for consideration and approval by the Executive Board at its first regular session 2008, an oversight policy that also defines the concepts of accountability and transparency as well as disclosure and confidentiality in the management of the operational activities of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS. In that regard, the Board *further requests* the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Director of UNFPA to keep the Board regularly informed, including through an oral report submitted to the second regular session 2007 of the Board, on progress made in developing the components and principles of the oversight policy prior to its submission to the Board at its first regular session of 2008;

12. *Recalls* the establishment of the UNDP and UNFPA Audit Advisory Committees, and *requests* that the role of the Audit Advisory Committees, including

their independence, relationship with the Executive Board, and appointment procedures, is clarified in the oversight policy.

22 June 2007

2007/30
Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its annual session 2007

The Executive Board,

Recalls that during its annual session 2007, it:

Item 1
Organizational matters

1. Approved the agenda and work plan for its annual session 2007 (DP/2007/L.2);

2. Approved the report of the first regular session 2007 (DP/2007/15) and its corrigendum (DP/2007/15/Corr.1);

3. Agreed to the following schedule of future sessions of the Executive Board in 2007 and 2008:

Second regular session 2007:	10 to 14 September 2007
Election of Bureau for 2008:	11 January 2008
First regular session 2008:	21 to 24 January 2008
Annual session 2008:	2 to 13 June 2007 (Geneva)
Second regular session 2008:	8 to 12 September 2008

4. Adopted the tentative work plan for the second regular session 2007 of the Executive Board.

UNDP segment

Item 2
Annual report of the Administrator

Adopted decisions 2007/22 and 2007/26 on the multi-year funding framework cumulative report on UNDP performance and results for 2004-2006, and related matters.

Took note of the joint report of UNDP and UNFPA on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in 2006 (DP/2007/17/Add.1-DP/FPA/2007/7 (Part 2).

Item 3
Funding commitments (UNDP)

Adopted decision 2007/17 on the status of funding commitments to UNDP.

Item 4
UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011

Took note of the draft UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011 (DP/2007/19) and the UNDP strategic vision on assistance to crisis-affected countries (DP/2007/20).

Item 5
Evaluation (UNDP)

Adopted decision 2007/24 on the annual report on evaluation.

Item 6
Human Development Report

Took note of the update on the *Human Development Report* consultations (DP/2007/28).

Item 7
UNDP country programmes and related matters

Took note of the following UNDP draft country programme documents and the comments made thereon:

Africa

Draft country programme document for Cameroon (DP/DCP/CMR/1)
Draft country programme document for Comoros (DP/DCP/COM/1)
Draft country programme document for Guinea Bissau (DP/DCP/GNB/1)
Draft country programme document for Lesotho (DP/DCP/LSO/1) and its corrigendum (DP/DCP/LSO/1/Corr.1)
Draft country programme document for Malawi (DP/DCP/MWI/1)
Draft country programme document form Mali (DP/DCP/MLI/1)
Draft country programme document for Sierra Leone (DP/DCP/SLE/1)

Asia and the Pacific

Draft country programme document for Bhutan (DP/DCP/BTN/1)
Draft country programme document for India (DP/DCP/IND/1)
Draft country programme document for Malaysia (DP/DCP/MYS/1)
Draft country programme document for Maldives (DP/DCP/MDV/1)
Draft country programme document for Papua New Guinea (DP/DCP/PNG/1)
Draft country programme document for Sri Lanka (DP/DCP/LKA/1/Rev.1)

Arab States

Draft country programme document for Bahrain (DP/DCP/BHR/1)
Draft country programme document for Djibouti (DP/DCP/DJI/1)
Draft country programme document for Jordan (DP/DCP/JOR/1)
Draft country programme document for United Arab Emirates (DP/DCP/ARE/1)

Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States

Draft country programme document for the Russian Federation (DP/DCP/RUS/2)

Latin America and the Caribbean

Draft country programme document for Bolivia (DP/DCP/BOL/1)
Draft country programme document for Cuba (DP/DCP/CUB/1)
Draft country programme document for Suriname (DP/DCP/SUR/1)
Draft country programme document for Trinidad and Tobago (DP/DCP/TTO/1).

Took note of the first one-year extensions of the country programmes for Burundi, Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Mauritius, Niger and Nigeria (DP/2007/29).

Approved the third one-year extension of the country programme for Timor-Leste; the second one-year extension of the country programme for Lebanon; and the first two-year extension of the country programme for Botswana (DP/2007/29).

Item 8
South-South cooperation

Adopted decision 2007/25 on the report on the implementation of the third cooperation framework for South-South cooperation, 2005-2007.

Item 9
United Nations Office for Project Services

Adopted decision 2007/27 on the annual report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Project Services.

Item 10
United Nations Capital Development Fund

Adopted decision 2007/28 on the results-oriented annual report for 2006 and the strategic partnership between UNDP and the United Nations Capital Development Fund.

Item 11
United Nations Development Fund for Women

Adopted decision 2007/23 on multi-year funding framework, 2004-2007, of the United Nations Development Fund for Women.

Item 12
Financial, budgetary and administrative matters

Adopted decision 2007/18 on the report on UNDP cost recovery effectiveness.

Adopted decision 2007/19 on the interim allocation for the UNDP biennial support budget, 2008-2009. Noted that the request of UNIFEM to postpone the submission of its biennial support budget, 2008-2009, to the first regular session 2008, was concordant with the request of UNDP for a similar postponement.

Adopted decision 2007/20 on the interim allocation for the UNIFEM biennial support budget, 2008-2009.

UNFPA segment

Item 13: Annual report of the Executive Director and
Item 16: UNFPA draft strategic plan and related matters

Adopted decision 2007/16 and 2007/21 on the UNFPA multi-year funding framework cumulative report, 2004-2007, and related matters.

Took note of the joint report of UNDP and UNFPA on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in 2006 (DP/2007/17/Add.1-DP/FPA/2007/7 (Part 2).

Item 14
Funding commitments to UNFPA

Adopted decision 2007/13 on the report on funding commitments to UNFPA.

Item 15
UNFPA country programmes and related matters

Took note of the following draft country programme documents and the comments made thereon:

Africa

Draft country programme document for Cameroon (DP/FPA/DCP/CMR/5)
Draft country programme document for Comoros (DP/FPA/DCP/COM/5)
Draft country programme document for Guinea Bissau (DP/FPA/DCP/GNB/5)
Draft country programme document for Malawi (DP/FPA/DCP/MWI/6)
Draft country programme document for Mali (DP/FPA/DCP/MLI/6)
Draft country programme document for Sierra Leone (DP/FPA/DCP/SLE/4)

Arab States, Europe and Central Asia

Draft country programme document for Djibouti (DP/FAP/DCP/DJB/3)
Draft country programme document for Jordan (DP/FAP/DCP/JOR/7)

Asia and the Pacific

Draft country programme document for Bhutan (DP/FPA/DCP/BTN/5)
Draft country programme document for India (DP/FPA/DCP/IND/7)
Draft country programme document for Maldives (DP/FPA/DCP/MDV/4)
Draft country programme for document for Papua New Guinea (DP/FPA/DCP/PNG/4)
Draft country programme document for Sri Lanka (DP/FPA/DCP/LKA/7)

Latin America and the Caribbean

Draft country programme document for Bolivia (DP/FPA/DCP/BOL/4)
Draft country programme document for Cuba (DP/FPA/DCP/CUB/7) and its corrigendum (DP/FPA/DCP/CUB/7/Corr.1)

Took note of the one-year extensions of the country programmes for Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Niger and Nigeria. Approved the two-year extension of the country programme for Botswana; the second one-year extension of the country programme for Haiti; the second one-year extensions of the country programmes for Lebanon and Sudan; and the third one-year extension of the country programme for Timor-Leste.

Item 16
UNFPA strategic plan and related matters

Took an oral decision authorizing UNFPA to prepare its biennial support budget, 2008-2009, on the basis of scenario 3, contained in the review of the organizational structure of UNFPA (draft document dated 30 May 2007), with formal adoption of the decision to be taken at the second regular session 2007.

Item 19
Financial, budgetary and administrative matters (UNFPA)

Adopted decision 2007/14 on the interim allocation for the UNFPA biennial support budget, 2008-2009.

Adopted decision 2007/15 on the review of the UNFPA policy on indirect cost recovery.

Joint UNDP/UNFPA segment

Item 17
Internal audit and oversight

Adopted decision 2007/29 on internal audit and oversight: UNDP/UNFPA and UNOPS.

Item 18
Field visits

Took note of the report on the joint field visit of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP to Liberia (24 February-4 March 2007).

Items 12 and 19 (continued)
Financial, budgetary and administrative matters

Recalled its decision 2005/33; took note of the revised biennial support budget format as proposed in the informal mock-up budget document; and requested the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Director of UNFPA to present a preliminary draft biennial support budget, 2008-2011, in the results-based format, based on information available, for the consideration of the Executive Board at its second regular session 2007.

Item 20
Other matters

Held an informal briefing on the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

Held informal consultations on the draft UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011.

Held informal consultations on the draft UNIFEM strategic plan, 2008-2011.

Held a special event (UNDP) on the mid-point progress of the Millennium Development Goals.

22 June 2007

2007/31
Annual review of the financial situation, 2006 (UNDP)

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note of* the annual review of the financial situation, 2006 (DP/2007/41) and its addendum (DP/2007/41/Add.1);

2. *Notes* that the pledges of $1 billion and receipt of $725 million so far in 2007 in contributions to regular resources is a positive step towards achieving the $1.1 billion target, and *encourages* Member States in a position to do so to continue funding regular resources to meet the framework target.

14 September 2007

2007/32
UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011

The Executive Board,

1. *Having considered* the UNDP strategic plan, 2008-1011 (DP/2007/43);

2. *Stresses* that the UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011, is a living document, which will be reviewed by the Executive Board on a regular basis during the plan period;

3. *Endorses:*

(a) The UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011, as amended and augmented by this decision;

(b) The following process of continual improvement of the plan:

(i) Issuance by the Administrator of an updated version of the strategic plan at the first regular session 2008 of the Executive Board, reflecting all the provisions of the current decision;

(ii) Discussion and consideration of the draft accountability framework at the first regular session 2008 of the Executive Board;

(iii) Submission of implications of the 2007 triennial comprehensive policy review for the strategic plan, including in the chapters on coordination, democratic governance, capacity development and crisis prevention and recovery, to the annual session 2008 of the Executive Board;

(iv) Submission of updated development results and institutional results frameworks to the annual session 2008 of the Executive Board;

(v) Inclusion in the Administrator's annual report to the annual sessions 2008 and 2009 of the Executive Board of reports on operationalization of the strategic plan;

(vi) Submission of a comprehensive report on performance and results to the annual session of the Executive Board 2010, and a midterm review of the strategic plan to the same session;

4. *Decides* that this decision will serve as the preface to and integral part of the UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011;

5. *Reaffirms* that support to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, should be the basis of the UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011;

6. *Stresses*, in this regard, that UNDP should focus on delivering effectively in the development-related areas, in particular with a view to eradicating poverty through development, equitable and sustained economic growth and capacity-building;

7. *Reaffirms* that the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system should be, inter alia, their universal, voluntary and grant nature, their neutrality and their multilateralism, as well as their ability to respond to the development needs of recipient countries in a flexible manner, and that the operational activities are carried out for the benefit of recipient countries, at the request of those countries and in accordance with their own policies and priorities for development;

8. *Recognizes* that the special needs of Africa, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states must be taken into consideration;

9. *Also recognizes* that support to capacity-development constitutes the overarching contribution of UNDP in assisting the efforts of programme countries to achieve internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and *underlines* that the emphasis of capacity-building includes institutional and human capacity-building in accordance with their national plans and strategies;

10. *Further recognizes* the importance of national ownership of development programmes, and *requests* UNDP to strengthen national ownership in the strategic plan and to further mainstream national ownership in all the areas of its work;

11. *Requests* UNDP to promote South-South cooperation by stepping up efforts to seek South-South solutions in all its focus areas, as a way to enhance exchange of best practices and support among developing countries regardless of their levels of development, and *also requests* the Administrator to establish measurable targets, in consultation with the Executive Board, for the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation;

12. *Stresses* that operational paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 59/250 regarding the national ownership of development programmes applies to all activities of UNDP, including its interaction with civil society;

13. *Emphasizes* that with the agreement of the host country, UNDP should assist national governments in creating an enabling environment in which the links between national governments, the United Nations development system, civil society, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector involved in the development process are strengthened, with a view to seeking new and innovative solutions to development problems in accordance with national policies and priorities;

14. *Urges* UNDP to continue to extend its support to programme countries within the context of the Hyogo Framework for Action as one of the members of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) system, in close coordination with the ISDR secretariat;

15. *Recalls* the 2005 World Summit Outcome (A/RES/60/1), in which the world Heads of State and Government resolved to support the further mainstreaming of human rights throughout the United Nations system;

16. *Underscores* that while UNDP should uphold universal United Nations norms and standards, including those related to human rights, UNDP does not have any normative or monitoring role with regard to human rights;

17. *Emphasizes* that UNDP should take a human development-based approach to programming;

18. *Take notes* of the improved integration of a gender perspective into the UNDP focus areas, and *encourages* UNDP to continue to build internal capacity to address gender dimensions in its work including, inter alia, the creation of enabling incentives and accountability systems for staff at all operational levels, and *calls upon* UNDP to continue to mainstream a gender perspective and to pursue gender equality in country programmes, planning instruments and sector-wide programmes and to articulate specific country-level goals and targets in that field in accordance with national development strategies;

19. *Stresses* the need for continuing efforts to achieve gender balance in appointments within UNDP at headquarters and country levels in positions that affect operational activities, including resident coordinator appointments, with due regard to representation of women from developing countries, and keeping in mind the principle of equitable geographical representation, and *requests* UNDP to inform the Executive Board regularly of progress made in this regard;

20. *Notes* the efforts of UNDP to focus its work and avoid unnecessary overlap and duplication with other funds and programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations, and *underscores* that when requested by the government and after consultation with the United Nations organizations that have a mandate for operational activities in their respective areas of work, UNDP may exceptionally provide support in areas outside the agreed focus areas;

21. *Recognizes* that the work of UNDP at the country level may vary, dependent upon the particular situation in each programme country, taking into account the national legislation and other country-specific circumstances;

22. *Reiterates* that UNDP should use, to the fullest extent possible, national execution and available national expertise and technologies as the norm in the implementation of operational activities, bearing in mind the importance of building national capacity, simplifying procedures and aligning them with national procedures, and fostering responsible financial management of operational activities;

23. *Requests* UNDP to continue to review and improve the development results and institutional results frameworks, including in response to comments by the Executive Board, and *emphasizes*, in this regard, that the indicators should focus on measuring the contribution of UNDP to outcomes and delivery of outputs, not the performance of programme countries;

24. *Further requests* UNDP to provide information to clarify its role in monitoring the Millennium Development Goals, including goal 8, as well as its collaboration and complementarity with other entities;

25. *Stresses* the need to use terminology and approaches consistent with the outcomes of United Nations conferences and summits;

26. *Approves* the integrated financial resources framework for the period 2008-2011 as contained in document DP/2007/43, and *calls upon* all Member States in a position to do so to support UNDP in reaching the resources targets set out in the strategic plan and to commit, as early as possible, their contribution to UNDP regular resources for the years 2008 and onwards, if possible through multi-year pledges.

5 October 2007

2007/33
Proposals on programming arrangements for 2008-2011

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note* of document DP/2007/44 on proposals on programming arrangements for the period 2008-2011, which in accordance with decision 2002/18, 2005 and 2007/3 provides further enhancement and simplification of the existing arrangements taking into consideration existing legislation, changes foreseen in the strategic plan, 2008-2011, and best practices within the United Nations funds and programmes;

2. *Reaffirms* the principles of eligibility of all recipient countries on the basis of the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities of the United Nations development system, which are, inter alia, universality, neutrality, multilateralism and its voluntary and grant nature and the capacity to respond to the needs of all recipient countries in accordance with their own development priorities; and in this context, *recognizes* the principles of the United Nations Development Programme activities, which include progressivity, impartiality, transparency and predictability of flow of resources for all recipient countries;

3. *Reconfirms* that, within the context of the programming arrangements and related decisions, the amount of regular resources available for programming for any given year is the total amount of regular income for that year minus: (a) the amount allocated to the biennial support budget for that year; and (b) any other amount of regular income that has been set aside as authorized by the Executive Board for other purposes than the programme lines of the programme financial framework as presented in table 6 of document DP/2007/44;

4. *Authorizes* the proposals of the Administrator to enhance the 2008-2011 programme financial framework as follows:

(a) Introduce a systematic adjustment of country classification thresholds at the beginning of each programming cycle;

(b) Establish a 50:50 share between TRAC-1 and TRAC-2, with regional flexibility of up to 10 per cent and without country limitation on TRAC-2 resource assignments;

(c) Increase the annual programming base of the programme financial framework from $450 million to $700 million in nominal terms;

(d) Re-cost all fixed lines to account for inflation and provide limited annual volume increases to all existing fixed lines;

(e) Regularize the funding of the Programme of assistance to the Palestinian People (PAPP) through the introduction of a specific fixed line, in line with decision 2005/26;

(f) Introduce a specific fixed line for gender mainstreaming;

(g) Transfer the fixed line for evaluation to the biennial support budget;

5. *Decides* that, except for the changes endorsed in the preceding paragraph, all other legislative provisions of the programming arrangements remain unchanged;

6. *Requests* the Administrator to submit to the Executive Board at its first regular session 2008 information on: (a) country-by-country TRAC-2 allocations since 2005; (b) the methodology of TRAC-2 allocation; and (c) criteria for establishing specific fixed lines, for further consideration of these issues;

7. *Also requests* the Administrator to submit to the Executive Board, at its first regular session 2009, a report with proposals to realign cost classification of activities funded from the programme financial framework and the biennial support budget in the context of the preparation of the 2010-2011 biennial support budget;

8. *Further requests* the Administrator to submit to the Executive Board, a midterm review at its second regular session 2009, and a report with proposals for successor programming arrangements at the second regular session 2011.

14 September 2007

2007/34
Predictable programme financing for UNCDF

The Executive Board,

1. *Requests* UNDP to provide UNCDF, on an exceptional basis, with the amount of $6 million for 2008, and to increase efforts to work with UNCDF to provide it with stable programme resources by supporting joint programmes with UNCDF at country, regional and global levels;

2. *Reiterates* the request to UNDP and UNCDF to present a plan containing detailed proposals to this end for discussion at the first regular session 2008.

14 September 2007

2007/35
UNIFEM strategic plan, 2008-2011

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note* of the UNIFEM strategic plan, 2008-2011 (DP/2007/45);

2. *Recognizes* that the UNIFEM strategic plan responds to the challenge of strengthening the implementation of national priorities for achieving gender equality and women's empowerment;

3. *Notes* that the plan further defines the catalytic role of UNIFEM, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 39/125, and *encourages* UNIFEM to systematically document and disseminate effective strategies for supporting progress on gender equality and women's empowerment in line with the national priorities of the programme countries;

4. *Underscores* the importance of support for capacity-development in programme countries and *notes* that the plan intends to identify concrete methodologies and measurements that underpin capacity development;

5. *Underscores* the importance of the close coordination of UNIFEM with other United Nations organizations in support of gender equality programming, including achieving greater clarity on the role of UNIFEM in accordance with General Assembly resolution 39/125 as a key driver to enhance United Nations system work on gender equality on the ground;

6. *Stresses* the importance of an integrated resources framework as an essential component for the implementation of the strategic plan;

7. *Notes* the resource mobilization projection in the UNIFEM strategic plan, 2008-2011, of $258.4 million in regular resources, which is significantly higher than current levels, and *requests* UNIFEM to provide, in a report to the Executive Board at its first regular session 2008, further information relating to the resource mobilization framework, including the potential impact on the strategic priorities and results set out in the UNIFEM strategic plan, 2008-2011, should regular resources not meet the projection;

8. *Reiterates* that the regular resources continue to be the bedrock of UNIFEM and essential to maintain the multilateral, neutral and universal nature of its work and calls upon donor countries and all other countries in a position to do so to increase their contributions to the regular resources of UNIFEM;

9. *Recalls and endorses* the strategic directions of UNIFEM as set out in previous intergovernmental resolutions and decisions related to UNIFEM;

10. *Endorses* the strategic priorities and results set out in the UNIFEM strategic plan, 2008-2011, and *authorizes* its implementation;

11. *Requests* the Executive Director to submit to the Executive Board, at its second regular session 2009, a midterm review of the strategic plan, 2008-2011.

14 September 2007

2007/36
Assistance to Myanmar

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note* of the note by the Administrator on assistance to Myanmar (DP/2007/46) and of the report submitted by the independent assessment mission to Myanmar, in particular the strategic challenges and recommendations mentioned therein;

2. *Requests* that the Administrator take account of and implement the findings of the independent assessment mission, as appropriate, under the human development

initiative (HDI), and continue to ensure that it achieves the intended development results;

3. *Endorses* the proposed programme focus during the 3-year extension (2008-2010) of HDI, phase IV;

4. *Authorizes* the Administrator to allocate an estimated amount of $24.1 million from regular budget resources for the period 2008-2010. This will be supplemented by other resources mobilized in the amount of $24.9 million, within the envelope already approved by the Executive Board in 2005.

14 September 2007

2007/37
Implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, 2004-2005

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note, with concern,* of the report of the Board of Auditors on the UNOPS financial statements for the biennium ended 31 December 2005 (Ad/61/5/Add.10);

2. *Notes* the progress made to date by the new UNOPS management to address financial and other related issues that had accumulated over a number of years;

3. *Takes note* of the report from UNOPS on the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for the biennium 2004-2005 (DP/2007/48), and *requests* UNOPS to report on the status of this implementation to the Board at its second regular session 2008.

14 September 2007

2007/38
Proposed partial merger of certain functions of IAPSO with UNOPS

The Executive Board,

1. *Welcomes* the transfer of the direct procurement functions carried out by UNDP/Inter-Agency Procurement Services Office (IAPSO) with respect to common user items and the associated strengthening of UNOPS as a central procurement resource to the United Nations system;

2. *Decides* that UNOPS is mandated to provide services to international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), where such provision furthers United Nations programmes and priorities of governments and is consistent with existing service provided by UNOPS, subsidiary to its core task of servicing the United Nations system;

3. *Decides* that, as of 2008, UNOPS will assume the responsibility given to UNDP/IAPSO pursuant to decisions 96/2 and 96/35 of compiling and submitting to the Executive Board, at its second regular session, the annual statistical report on the procurement activities of United Nations system organizations;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to include, in his annual report to the Executive Board, an overview of UNOPS clients and services and information on the implementation of the partial merger, including provision of services to NGOs.

14 September 2007

2007/39
Amendment to the instrument for the establishment of the restructured Global Environment Facility

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes* note of the Note by Administrator on the proposed amendment to the instrument for the establishment of the restructured Global Environment Facility (GEF);

2. *Adopts* the amendments to the GEF instrument so as to provide the GEF Council with flexibility to hold its meetings outside the seat of the Secretariat, if necessary.

14 September 2007

2007/40
UNFPA strategic plan, 2008-2011

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note* of the report (DP/FPA/2007/17) on the UNFPA strategic plan, 2008-2011: accelerating progress and national ownership of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and *recognizes* the strategic plan as the key tool for directing the work of UNFPA in supporting countries in implementing the ICPD Programme of Action and the Key Actions for the Further Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action (ICPD+5) and in advancing the Millennium Development Goals;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the participatory consultative process undertaken by UNFPA in developing the strategic plan;

3. *Endorses* the strategic plan, 2008-2011, as contained in document DP/FPA/2007/17;

4. *Welcomes* the strengthened support to national development and *underscores* the importance of capacity development and national ownership in further enhancing national development;

5. *Recognizes* that programme countries, in the country programme development process, have the flexibility to choose the development results framework outcomes from the strategic plan that best respond to their national development priorities;

6. *Recognizes* the increased focus of UNFPA on results-based management and accountability and *encourages* UNFPA to continue to strengthen results-based management and accountability in the strategic plan, and to collaborate with other United Nations funds and programmes to harmonize approaches to results-based management;

7. *Takes note* of the accountability framework (DP/FPA/2007/20) and of the commitment of UNFPA to further strengthen its monitoring and reporting;

8. *Approves* the integrated financial resources framework for 2008-2011 as contained in document DP/FPA/2007/17 and *encourages* all countries in a position to do so to assist UNFPA in reaching the total figure for regular and other resources for 2008-2011, including through multi-year pledges;

9. *Stresses* that regular resources, because of their untied nature, continue to be the bedrock of UNFPA activities, enabling the effective implementation of the strategic plan, and *calls upon* donor countries and all other countries in a position to do so to increase substantially their contributions to the regular resources of UNFPA;

10. *Requests* the Executive Director to submit to the Executive Board, at its second regular session 2009, a midterm review of the strategic plan, 2008-2011.

14 September 2007

2007/41
UNFPA global and regional programme, 2008-2011

The Executive Board,

1. *Endorses* the proposed UNFPA global and regional programme, 2008-2011, as contained in document DP/FPA/2007/19;

2. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to commit an amount of $200 million over the four-year period, 2008-2011, for its implementation;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Executive Board in 2009 and in 2011 on the implementation of the UNFPA global and regional programme, within the context of the annual report of the Executive Director.

14 September 2007

2007/42
Review of the system for the allocation of UNFPA resources to country programmes

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note of* the review of the system for the allocation of UNFPA resources to country programmes as contained in document DP/FPA/2007/18;

2. *Approves* the approach, effective January 2008, for resource allocation as outlined in document DP/FPA/2007/18, and endorses the procedure for categorizing countries into groups A, B and C;

3. *Approves* the relative share of resources presented in table 4 of the above-mentioned document;

4. *Also approves* the changes suggested to country programme documents as outlined in paragraph 23 of the above-mentioned document;

5. *Recommends* that the distribution of resources to individual countries and particularly to those changing category, be made in a flexible manner, taking into account the need to ensure that the gains already made are not compromised;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director to undertake, as needed, a further review of the system for resource allocation in 2011 in the context of the review of the UNFPA strategic plan, 2008-2011.

14 September 2007

2007/43
Review of the organizational structure of UNFPA

(i) Review of the organizational structure of UNFPA

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note of* the review of the organizational structure of UNFPA, as contained in document DP/FPA/2007/16 and its corrigendum (DP/FPA/2007/16/Corr.1)

2. *Approves* the UNFPA organizational structure contained in the above-mentioned document and its corrigendum;

3. *Stresses* the need for further consultations among the United Nations Development Group on options for a co-located regional office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia;

4. *Decides* to review the location of the regional office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, as part of the assessment of the implementation of the organizational structure, at the first regular session 2009, taking into account the comments of Member States and the evolving situation in the region;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to present regular updates to the Executive Board, as appropriate, regarding the implementation of the organizational structure;

(ii) The operational reserve

The Executive Board,

Taking note of the recommendation on the operational reserve in paragraph 77 of document DP/FPA/2006/16 on the review of the organizational structure of UNFPA,

1. *Authorizes* the Executive Director, on an exceptional basis, to withhold a maximum of $11 million from the projected annual additions over two years to the operational reserve, above the current level of $72.1 million until 1 January 2009 to partially fund the one-time costs of $27.9 million;

2. *Requests* UNFPA to resume funding the operational reserve after meeting the above requirement of $11 million, in accordance with rule 112.1 of the Financial Rules and Regulations (Rev.7);

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Executive Board at its first regular session in 2009 on the state of the operational reserve.

14 September 2007

2007/44
Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA at its second regular session 2007

The Executive Board,

Recalls that during its second regular session 2007, it:

Item 1
Organizational matters

Approved the agenda and work plan for the second regular session 2007;

Approved the report of the annual session 2007;

Agreed to the following schedule of sessions of the Executive Board in 2008:

First regular session 2008:	21 to 24 January 2008
Joint meeting of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP:	25 and 28 January 2008
Annual session 2008:	16 to 27 June 2008 (Geneva)
Second regular session 2008:	8 to 12 September 2008.

UNDP segment

Item 2
Financial, budgetary and administrative matters

Adopted decision 2007/31 on the annual review of the financial situation, 2006 (UNDP);

Took note of the report on the information on United Nations system technical cooperation expenditures 2006 (DP/2007/42 and DP/2007/42/Add.1).

Item 3
UNDP strategic plan

Took note of the report on the existing UNDP accountability framework and its monitoring and evaluation mechanisms (DP/2007/CRP.4);

Adopted decision 2007/32 on the UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011.

Item 4
Programming arrangements

Adopted decision 2007/33 on programming arrangements and decision 2007/34 on predictable programme funding for the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF).

Item 5
United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)

Adopted decision 2007/35 on the UNIFEM strategic plan, 2008-2011.

Item 6
Country programmes and related matters (UNDP)

Adopted decision 2007/36 on assistance to Myanmar;

Approved the following country programmes on a no-objection basis, without presentation or discussion:

Africa: Cameroon , Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali and Sierra Leone;

Arab States: Bahrain, Djibouti, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates;

Asia and the Pacific: Bhutan, Malaysia, India, Maldives, Papua New Guinea and S i Lanka;

Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States: Russian Federation;

Latin America and the Caribbean: Bolivia, Cuba, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago;

Took note of the following draft regional programme documents and the comments made thereon:

Draft regional programme document for Africa

Draft regional programme document for Asia and the Pacific

Draft regional programme document for Latin America and the Caribbean

Took note of the following draft country programme documents and the comments made thereon:

Africa

Draft country programme document for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DP/DCP/COD/1)
Draft country programme document for Equatorial Guinea (DP/DCP/GNQ/1)
Draft country programme document for Liberia (DP/DCP/LBR/1)
Draft country programme document for Madagascar (DP/DCP/MDG/1)
Draft country programme document for Rwanda (DP/DCP/RWA/1)
Draft country programme document for Togo (DP/DCP/TGO/1)

Arab States

Draft country programme document for Kuwait (DP/DCP/KWT/1)
Draft country programme document for Somalia (DP/DCP/SOM/1/Rev.1)

Asia

Draft multi-country programme document for Fiji (DP/DCP/FJI/1)
Draft country programme document for Nepal (DP/DCP/NPL/1)
Draft multi-country programme document for Samoa (DP/DCP/WSM/1)

Latin America and the Caribbean

Draft country programme document for Colombia (DP/DCP/COL/1)
Draft country programme document for Costa Rica (DP/DCP/CRI/1)

Draft country programme document for Mexico (DP/DCP/MEX/1)
Draft country programme document for Nicaragua (DP/DCP/NIC/1)

Took note of the one-year extensions of the global programme and the country programme for Venezuela (DP/2007/47);

Approved the second one-year extension of the country programme for Haiti (DP/2007/47).

Item 7
United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

Adopted decision 2007/37 on the report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, 2004-2005;

Adopted decision 2007/38 on the proposed partial merger of certain functions of the Inter-Agency Procurement Services Office (IAPSO) with UNOPS.

UNFPA segment

Item 8
Financial, budgetary and administrative matters (UNFPA)

Took note of the UNFPA annual financial review, 2006 (DP/FPA/2007/15).

Item 9
UNFPA strategic plan and related matters

Adopted decision 2007/40 on the UNFPA strategic plan, 2008-2011;

Adopted decision 2007/41 on the UNFPA global and regional programme, 2008-2011;

Adopted decision 2007/42 on the review of the system for the allocation of UNFPA resources to country programmes;

Adopted decision 2007/43 on the review of the organizational structure of UNFPA;

Item 10
Country programmes and related matters (UNFPA)

Approved the following country programmes on a no-objection basis, without presentation or discussion:

Africa: Cameroon , Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Malawi, Mali and Sierra Leone;

Arab States, Europe and Central Asia: Djibouti and Jordan;

Asia and the Pacific: Bhutan, India, Maldives, Papua New Guinea and Sri Lanka;

Latin America and the Caribbean: Bolivia and Cuba.

Took note of the following draft country programme documents and the comments made thereon:

Africa

Draft country programme document for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DP/FPA/DCP/COD/3)

Draft country programme document for Equatorial Guinea (DP/FPA/DCP/GNQ/5)
Draft country programme document for Lesotho (DP/FPA/DCP/LSO/5)
Draft country programme document for Liberia (DP/FPA/DCP/LBR/3 and Corr.1)
Draft country programme document for Madagascar (DP/FPA/DCP/MDG/6)
Draft country programme document for Rwanda (DP/FPA/DCP/RWA/6)
Draft country programme document for Togo (DP/FPA/DCP/TGO/5);

Arab States, Europe and Central Asia

Draft country programme document for Somalia (DP/FPA/DCP/SOM/1);

Asia and the Pacific

Draft country programme document for Nepal (DP/FPA/DCP/NPL/6)
Draft multi-country programme document for the Pacific Island countries (DP/FPA/DCP/PIC/4);

Latin America and the Caribbean

Draft country programme document for Colombia (DP/FPA/DCP/COL/5)
Draft country programme document for Costa Rica (DP/FPA/DCP/CRI/3)
Draft country programme document for Mexico (DP/FPA/DCP/MEX/5)
Draft country programme document for Nicaragua (DP/FPA/DCP/NIC/7);

Took note of the one-year extension of the country programme for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (DP/FPA/2007/21).

Item 11
United Nations Capital Development Fund

Took note of the detailed proposal on funding strategies and programme arrangements.

Joint UNDP/UNFPA segment

Item 12
Internal audit and oversight

Heard oral reports on the progress made in developing the components and principles of the respective oversight policies of UNDP and UNFPA in preparation for their submission to the Executive Board at its first regular session 2008.

Item 13
Follow-up to the Programme Coordinating Board meeting of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

Took note of the joint UNDP and UNFPA report on the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (DP/2007/50-DP/FPA/2007/22).

Item 14
Field visits

Took note of the report on the field visit of the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board to Mexico (DP/2007/CRP.3 - DP/FPA/2007/CRP/2).

Item 15
Other matters

Adopted decision 2007/39 on the amendment to the instrument for the establishment of the restructured Global Environment Facility;

Held the following informal briefings and consultations:

UNDP

Held informal consultations on:

(a) the preliminary draft of the UNDP biennial support budget, 2008-2009; (b) the preliminary draft of the UNIFEM biennial support budget, 2008-2009; and (c) the intended partial merger of certain functions of IAPSO into UNOPS;

UNFPA

Held informal consultations on:

(a) the preliminary draft of the UNFPA biennial support budget, 2008-2009; and (b) reproductive health commodity security.

TENTATIVE WORK PLAN
EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNDP/UNFPA
FIRST REGULAR SESSION 2008
(21 to 28 January 2008, New York)

Day/Date	*Time*	*Item*	*Subject*
Monday, 21 January	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	1	ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS o Adoption of the agenda and work plan for the session o Adoption of the report on the second regular session 2007 o Adoption of the annual work plan 2008 of the Executive Board
			UNDP SEGMENT
			STATEMENT BY THE ADMINISTRATOR
		2	FINANCIAL, BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS UNDP biennial support budget, 2008-2009 Report of the ACABQ on the UNDP biennial support budget, 2008-2009 Proposal on allocation of indirect cost recovery (decision 2007/18)
	3 – 6 p.m.	2	FINANCIAL, BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (cont'd)
		3	COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS o Approval of regional and country programmes
Tuesday, 22 January	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.		**UNFPA SEGMENT**
			STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
		12	FINANCIAL, BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS o Estimates for the biennial support budget for 2008-2009 o Report of the ACABQ on the estimates for the biennial support budget for 2008-2009
	3 – 5 p.m.	12	FINANCIAL, BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (cont'd)
		13	COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS o Approval of country programme documents
	5 - 6 p.m.		*Informal consultations on draft decisions*
Wednesday, 23 January	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.		**UNDP SEGMENT (cont'd)**
		4	EVALUATION o Evaluation of result-based management in UNDP and management response o Evaluation of UNDP's contribution to South-South cooperation and management response
		5	SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION o Fourth cooperation framework for South-South cooperation
	3 – 5 p.m.	6	UNIFEM o UNIFEM cost recovery policy (decision 2007/23)
		7	UNCDF o UNDP/UNCDF strategic partnership (decision 2007/28) o UNCDF cost recovery policy (decision 2007/28)
	5 – 6 p.m.		*Informal consultations on draft decisions*

Day/Date	*Time*	*Item*	*Subject*
Thursday, 24 January	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.		**UNDP SEGMENT (cont'd)**
		8	UNOPS o Biennial planning and budget framework
			JOINT UNDP/UNFPA SEGMENT
		9	RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BOARD OF AUDITORS o Reports of UNDP and UNFPA on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, 2004-2005
		10	INTERNAL AUDIT AND OVERSIGHT o Report on the UNDP oversight policy (decision 2007/29) o Report on the UNFPA oversight policy
	3 – 6 p.m.	11	REPORTS TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL o Joint report of the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Director of UNFPA to the Economic and Social Council
		14	OTHER MATTERS o Adoption of pending decisions
		1	ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS o Adoption of the tentative work plan for the annual session 2008
Friday, 25 January	10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.		JOINT MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARDS OF UNDP/UNFPA, UNICEF AND WFP
	3:00 – 6:00 p.m.		JOINT MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARDS OF UNDP/UNFPA, UNICEF AND WFP (cont'd)
Monday, 28 January	10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.		JOINT MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARDS OF UNDP/UNFPA, UNICEF AND WFP (cont'd)
	3:00 – 6:00 p.m.		JOINT MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARDS OF UNDP/UNFPA, UNICEF AND WFP (cont'd)